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EIGHTH DIVISION

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WITH THE EIGHTH DIVISION:

A SOUVENIR OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

Capt. Ward (C.T.O.) Col. Tudway (D.A.A.G.) Capt. Hales (C.O.O.) Capt. Webber (A.D.C.) Major Wood (A.D.C.) Major Cavendish (D.A.A.G.) Lieut. Brooke (Camp Comdt.) Col. Morrison (P.M.) Capt. Bennett (SIG. O.) Lieut. Lane (P. VET. O.) Col. Harley (C.S.O.) General Sir L. Rundle Col. May (P.M.O.)

GENERAL SIR LESLIE RUNDLE AND STAFF.

[illegible] Camp Lincoln
Camp Dennison
Feb. 9.)

WITH THE EIGHTH DIVISION:

A SOUVENIR

OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

BY

PRIVATE E. C. MOFFETT,

(LATE SCOTS GUARDS).

REVISED BY

SERGT. F. J. B. LEE,

MIDDX. I.Y. (LATE 34TH I.Y., EIGHTH DIVISION).

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAP.

SECOND EDITION.

1903.

KNAPP, DREWETT & SONS LTD.,

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES AND WESTMINSTER, S.W.

LT
231.5
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1903

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Dedicated

TO

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. McL. LESLIE RUNDLE,

K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.,

AS A TRIBUTE TO HIS QUALITIES

AS A GENERAL.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

On account of the wide-spread interest with which the "Souvenir" has been received by officers, comrades and friends of the Eighth Division, I have been enabled to bring out a Second Edition.

I have not risked altering the form, or increasing the bulk of the book, which has had the good fortune not to displease those for whom it was written, but have endeavoured to condense, as in a focus, the general work accomplished by the Eighth Division, and to rigidly adhere to giving a plain story of the real occurrences of our campaign life.

From numerous letters received, and Reviews from the Press, it is gratifying to know that the book has been much welcomed and appreciated.

The fact that the First Edition, comprising a thousand copies, has been disposed of in the short space of six weeks, speaks so unequivocally that further remarks are superfluous.

E.C.M.

September, 1903.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

EARLY in the campaign I began taking notes, as far as was possible, of the work and dispositions of the Eighth Division. Subsequently, at the request of many comrades, who desired to possess a permanent account of the general work of the Division, I was persuaded to put these notes into book form.

My object, therefore, in publishing this book is to supply, chiefly to my comrades, details of the composition of the Division, together with a general outline of the engagements and marches, as well as a description of the camps and places visited en route.

A great number of books have been published on the War, but not one, so far as I know, professes to deal exclusively with the operations of the Eighth Division. Under these circumstances it is hoped that this book will supply a want to many who wish to preserve a record of the Division's work and wanderings.

The map published with this book shows the general route only of the Division's marches. Most of the country lying immediately around this line of march may be taken as being within the Division's

Capt. Ward (C.T.O.) Col. Tudway (D.A.A.G.) Capt. Webber (A.D.C.) Capt. Hales (C.O.O.) Col. Harley (C.S.O.) Major Wood (A.D.C.) Major Cavendish (D.A.A.G.) General Sir L. Rundle Lieut. Brooke (Camp Comdt.) Col. Morrison (P.M.) Col. May (P.M.O.) Capt. Bennett (SIG. O.) Lieut. Lane (P. VET. O.)

GENERAL SIR LESLIE RUNDLE AND STAFF.

[illegible] THE LOWER DIVISION:

CHAPTER VI.

On to Harrismith—Through Naauwpoort Nek—We meet the Highland Brigade—Occupation of Harrismith—Welcome to the Eighth Division—Establishment of British Rule—Instances of Boer Persecution—Opening of the Harrismith-Ladysmith Line—Distribution of the Division—A Kaffir Wedding ... page 108.

CHAPTER VII.

Signalling and Signallers—Nine Weeks' Trek to Standerton and Back, via Bethlehem, Retiefs Nek, Ficksburg, Wit Kop, Reitz, and Vrede—Back to Harrismith—Action at Lombard's Kop—Plucky Defence of Ladybrand—Farewell to Volunteer Service Companies ... ... page 125.

CHAPTER VIII.

Pacifying the Country—Action at Tigers Kloof—Lord Roberts' Farewell to the Army—Actions at Reitpan and Necramo Nek—Accession of His Majesty, King Edward VII.—The Queen's Memorial Service at Harrismith—Wilge River Drift—Pram Kop—Vrede—Harrismith Light Horse—De Langes Drift in Flood—Enteric Victims—The Grenadiers and Train Wrecking in Natal page 145.

CHAPTER IX.

More Brandwater Basin—Monument to the Eighth Division—Enteric Victims—Rounding up Farms—Theron's Mill—De Wet's Address to Free Staters—Golden Gate—The Langberg—Great Haul of Stock—Distribution of Troops—Operations on the Wilge River ... ... page 168.

CHAPTER X.

The Scots Guards leave Harrismith for Maritzburg—Subsequently they operate in the Transvaal—Blockhouse building in the Caledon Valley—Arrival of the I.L.H. and other Troops in Harrismith—Breaking up of the Division—Tweefontein—A Survivor's Account—Moolman's Spruit—The Cow-gun ... ... page 201.

APPENDIX.

Casualties from the concentration of the Division at Wakkerstroom, O.R.C., to the signing of Peace ... ... page 223.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE.
General Sir Leslie Rundle and Staff	*Frontispiece.*
Major-General Sir H. McL. Leslie Rundle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.	1
Major-General Barrington B. D. Campbell, C.V.O., C.B., and Staff	8
Major-General J. E. Boyes, C.B., and Staff	9
Trommel, or "Starvation Camp"	16
Hammonia	16
Camp under Senekal Kopje, May, 1900	40
Biddulphsberg, May, 29th, 1900	40
Middlesex Kopje. In Action, June, 1900	41
Typical Scenery in the Caledon Valley	41
Middlesex Kopje, June, 1900	64
The Maxim in Action, June, 1900	64
In Action, June, 1900	65
Middlesex Kopje, June, 1900	65
Captain L. C. V. Andersen, O.V.S. Artillerie	104
Signallers with Heliographs	104
A Surrendered Commando, July 30th, 1900	104
"Jack" and his Master, Private R. Lauchlan	104

PAGE.

Boer Prisoners: One of the Oliviers, July 30th, 1900 . 105

Boer Prisoners, July 30th, 1900 105

Scots Guards' Pipers at the Prinsloo Surrender, July 30th, 1900 105

President Steyn's Visit to Harrismith (Before the War) 120

Harrismith 120

A Kaffir Wedding at Harrismith 121

Farm Burning 121

Crossing the Wilge River Drift 121

Wagon after being shelled by a 15-Pounder . . . 121

The Queen's Memorial Service, Harrismith, February 2nd, 1901 184

15-Pounder crossing De Langes Drift (Klip River), on Raft 184

De Langes Drift (Klip River), when not in flood . . 184

Military Funeral in Harrismith Cemetery 185

Troops halting near Naauwpoort Nek 185

Group of Typical Boers 185

Vickers-Maxim, or Pom-pom, ready for Action . . 185

Our old friend, the Cow-gun, ready for Action . . . 215

Map, shewing the Division's Line of March *End of Volume.*

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. MC L. LESLIE RUNDLE, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Commanded the Eighth Division in South Africa, 1900-1-2
Commanding South-Eastern District.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 6th Company, M.I.Y.")

CHAPTER I.

Formation and Composition of the Division—Sketch of Troop-ship Life—The Outward Voyage—Arrival in South Africa.

THE week ending December 17th, 1899, was one of momentous importance to the British Nation, for during that week our Army in South Africa had received three of the most disastrous checks of the whole of the Century. Stormberg, Magersfontein and Colenso followed hard on one another, and the Nation was humbled. Then only did the Government and Country appear to realise the magnitude and great difficulties of the War, and at once determine to make adequate provision for carrying it to a successful issue.

It was determined, amongst other things, to place the entire direction of the campaign in the veteran hands of Lord Roberts—who was to be aided by Lord Kitchener—and to dispatch at the earliest date the Seventh and Eighth Divisions.

The Eighth Division was mobilized and embarked by the middle of March, disembarking in Cape Colony and Natal between the 4th and 10th of April, 1900.

From Cape Town and Port Elizabeth the troops moved by road and rail to Edinburg and Reddersburg, subsequently concentrating at Wakkerstroom, O.R.C.

The Eighth Division, commanded by Lieut.-General Sir H. M. Leslie Rundle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., consisted of the 16th and 17th Brigades, under Major-Generals Campbell and Boyes respectively; a

force of Imperial Yeomanry and Mounted Infantry under Major-General Brabazon; and a Brigade Division of Artillery under Lieut.-Col. Jeffries, R.A.

The Divisional Staff consisted of:—

Lieut.-General H. M. L. Rundle, Commanding.
Colonel G. E. Harley, C.B., A.A.G.
Major-General Brabazon, Mounted Troops.
Lieut.-Colonel Jeffries, R.A., Artillery.
Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Morrison, Provost Marshal.
Lieut.-Colonel W. A. May, P.M.O.
Captain R. S. Webber, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, A.D.C.
Major C. B. Wood, Reserve of Officers, A.D.C.
Major A. E. J. Cavendish, A. and S. Highlanders, D.A.A.G.
Captain G. J. Walsh, Leicester Regiment, D.A.A.G.
Capt. R. S. Milne, R.A., D.A.A.G. for Intelligence.
Capt. C. H. Bennett, Divisional Signalling Officer.

The Division was formed of the following units:—

MOUNTED TROOPS.

1st Battalion Imperial Yeomanry Staff.
1st Company Wilts Imperial Yeomanry.
2nd Company Wilts Imperial Yeomanry.
3rd Company Gloucester Imperial Yeomanry.
4th Company Glamorgan Imperial Yeomanry.

4th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry Staff.
6th Company Stafford Imperial Yeomanry.
7th Company Leicester Imperial Yeomanry.
8th Company Derby Imperial Yeomanry.
41st Company Hants Imperial Yeomanry.

11th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry Staff.
33rd Company East Kent Imperial Yeomanry.
34th Company Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry.
35th Company Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry.
36th Company West Kent Imperial Yeomanry.
62nd Company Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry (joined in May, 1900).
Gun Section.

Driscoll's Scouts.
Tempest's Scouts.
Manchester Mounted Infantry.
West Kent Mounted Infantry.
Royal Scots Mounted Infantry.

Royal Field Artillery Division Staff.
*2nd Battery Royal Field Artillery.
77th Battery Royal Field Artillery.
79th Battery Royal Field Artillery.
Ammunition Column.
Detachment 36th Company Royal Garrison Artillery.
Section Pom-poms.

16th Brigade Staff.
2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards.
2nd Battalion Scots Guards.
2nd Battalion East Yorks Regiment.
1st Battalion Leinster Regiment.
21st Bearer Company.
21st Field Hospital.

* The 2nd Battery from Bloemfontein replaced the 74th Battery R.F.A.

17th Brigade Staff.
1st Battalion Worcester Regiment.
1st Battalion South Stafford Regiment.
2nd Battalion Manchester Regiment.
2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment.
22nd Bearer Company.
23rd Field Hospital.

3rd and 4th Sections of 5th Company Royal Engineers.
5th A Company Army Service Corps.
5th B Company Army Service Corps.
8th A Company Army Service Corps.
8th B Company Army Service Corps.
12th R Company Army Service Corps.
15th L Company Army Service Corps.

Every member of the Division knows something of the "Life on a troopship," and as the experience is general, it may therefore be worthy of briefly recording.

We left Southampton Docks on the 15th March, 1900, at 4 p.m., but the manner of our leaving I will not attempt to describe. The illustrated papers had made us familiar beforehand with the heartiness of the "send-off" we were to expect, but they gave us no idea of the pathos which lay beneath the enthusiasm. A great part of our men were Reservists, leaving wives and families, and the reckless gaiety displayed was largely of the type that covers an over-full heart.

We dropped down the Solent, and by the time the Needles hove in sight the men had sobered down.

By 8.15 I had sought my corner on the overcrowded lower troop deck. There was hammock accommodation for little more than half the men; the remainder found

a plank bed, and it proved pretty uncomfortable too, as I can vouch. The air was poisonous, and a dozen or so sporadic cases of sea-sickness did not improve matters.

Reveillé sounded at 5.30, and we had never before felt so keen a sense of the delights of early rising. We breakfasted at 6.30—bread, and about three-quarters of a pint of the worst kind of coffee. But the sea had got up during the night and the quality of the coffee was of little interest to the majority. Old England had disappeared, and the north-west coast of France hung like a mist on the southern horizon. Towards evening we entered the Bay of Biscay.

It is gratifying in a way, to note that "the Bay" came up to its reputation. Two things appeal strongly to a landsman—the awful loneliness of the apparently limitless stretch of sea, and the extreme inconvenience of attempting to preserve a military bearing on a deck that seems to tilt every way at once and no way long. Still, the lighthouse of Cape Finisterre hove in sight, and soon we had the satisfaction of knowing that the dreaded "Bay" lay safely behind.

On the 18th, Sunday, we had the novel experience of a "service at sea," the Captain officiating. Our coaling station was Las Palmas, 1,460 miles from Southampton, and here we were enabled to purchase a plentiful supply of fruit, cigars and tobacco from the inhabitants, who swarmed round the transports in their bum-boats. After a few hours' stay off this delightful island, we proceeded en route to the Cape.

The following details as to diet, etc., on board a troopship, may serve to remind us of our journey out. Here is a typical day:—

BREAKFAST.—About three-quarters of a pint of a curious infusion called by courtesy coffee ; half-a-pound of dry bread, with now and again some half-dozen tablespoonfuls of porridge. This is *oatmeal* porridge in the strictest sense, there being no other *legitimate* ingredient, save water.

DINNER.—Three-quarters of a pint of soup (I suspect this to be water masquerading as soup on the somewhat inadequate grounds that it has been used to boil meat, puddings, or to wash greasy dishes). The meat itself is—well, we generally leave it untouched. (I never knew before where all that unwholesomely fat meat one sees at Christmas time goes. I think I know now. It is used to feed the fishes on the Cape route).

TEA.—This meal consists of a pint of "tea"—a brew which has considerable claims to be called "special." It is certainly like nothing I have ever tasted before. This, with a half-pound of dry bread, constitutes the last meal of the day.

No beer or spirit is procurable. There is, however, a "dry canteen," a sort of coffee shop, which opens thrice daily for an hour.

With 1,300 hungry customers, it does a roaring trade. Getting at the bar is like getting into the pit of a theatre on a first night. A "queue" of fifty or sixty patient (!) Tommies waiting their turn is not at all an uncommon sight.

The troop deck at night is a weird picture, and it is impossible to move about save on one's hands and knees —the hammocks swing so near the deck. The deck itself is covered with sleeping forms in more or less picturesque attitudes.

Beyond the usual duties of swabbing, mess-work, guards, pickets and fatigues, there is little else to record.

After a couple of parades a day, comprising physical drill and kit inspections, the troops are at liberty to spend their time as they wish. To some, the monotony of the voyage weighs disagreeably, whilst others divide their time between reading and gazing at the wonders of the deep—spouting whales, sporting dolphins and porpoises, flying fish and the gaudy miniature ship-like nautilus.

Perhaps the majority are absorbed in the gaming schools of cards, "house-on-the-line" and the "crown and anchor." The proprietors of the last-mentioned game, invite the Tommies to "roll up and back the lucky crown"; "win gold, wear gold"; or cry, "the more you puts down the more you picks up." Business of this nature has to be carried on under the special difficulties of settling disputed claims and keeping a sharp look out for the ubiquitous provost-sergeant and his men.

A concert, or a free and easy sing-song at night, whiles away the voyage. And as the days come and go, the Southern Cross and other strange constellations shortly appear at night, telling us unmistakably that we have left our northern hemisphere behind.

The monotonous throbbing of the engines brings us daily nearer our destination, and soon land looms in sight; Table Mountain grows less hazy; the engines begin to slow down, and ultimately our vessel gently rises and falls, and we are riding at anchor in the far-famed Table Bay, with its numberless transports, all waiting their turn for being berthed. Orders soon arrive directing us to proceed to Port Elizabeth, where we disembark, after which, we are rushed off in crowded trains to the Front of War.

CHAPTER II.

Springfontein to Edinburg—Riet River—Boers at Oorlog's Poort—Mishap to the Worcesters—Boer Pom-poms—Relief of Wepener—We co-operate with French, Chermside and Pole-Carew—Retreat of Piet de Wet's Army—Operations round Thaban'chu—Our Convoy Attacked—Brands Drift—Trommel.

RAIN was failing heavily when, on April 13th, 1900, the troops, consisting of the Imperial Yeomanry, 2nd Scots Guards and Royal Engineers, marched out of the railway junction of Springfontein for Edinburg, viâ Kuilfontein, Jagersfontein Road Station and Pompi Siding.

The route lay parallel with the railway, and the roads were extremely heavy with the recent rains, which made marching exceedingly fatiguing, taking into consideration too the fact that the troops had been confined to the narrow limits of a ship for three weeks, followed by close confinement for three or four days in a railway carriage.

Great coats were worn, and soon became so saturated with water that their weight became excessive.

Our equipment was not by any means an ideal one; in wet weather the shoulder straps rapidly get wet and press heavily on the shoulders, frequently leaving as the result severe rheumatic pains.

To one associated only with home camps, the camp of active service is very different; the conditions of our camp life out here have been most severe and arduous, and in our march from Springfontein to Edinburg we had an initiation into those hardships with which we have been associated throughout the greater part of this campaign.

From a photo by T. F. Andrews, Harrisonith.

CAPTAIN E. F. GASCOIGNE, D.S.O., R.M. (Grenadier Guards).

GENERAL B. CAMPBELL.

LIEUTENANT HON. E. C. GORDON-LENNOX, A.D.C. (Scots Guards).

Major-General Barrington B. D. Campbell, C.V.O., C.B., commanded *the 16th Brigade*, Eighth Division, in South Africa, 1901-1-2.

[illegible] by Bassano & Vandyk.

[illegible] Boyes.

Captain C. B. Fryer, [illegible]
(15th Hussars).

Brigadier-General J. G. Dixon, C.B., commanded the 15th Hussars
Cavalry Brigade, in South Africa, 1900-1.

From a photo by F. F. Antony, Harrismith.

CAPTAIN
K. F. GASCOIGNE,
D.S.O., R.E.
(Grenadier Guards).

GENERAL
R. CAMPBELL.

LIEUTENANT
HON. E. C. FORBES-LEITH,
A.D.C.
(Scots Guards).

Major-General Harrington R. D. Campbell, C.B., R.A., commanding the 66th Brigade, Kitchener's Division, in South Africa, 1901-1902.

From photo by Russell & Sons.

GENERAL BOYES. CAPTAIN C. B. FITZHENRY, R.N.
(17th Brigade).

Major-General J. E. Boyes, C.B., commanded the 17th Brigade, *Eighth Division*, in South Africa, 1900-1.

The first night's experience will not readily be forgotten : after marching all day through a heavy rain we were told " to get down to it " for the night's rest. Only those who have experienced these conditions can imagine what this means—to lie in pools of water with scarcely a dry shred on, and the rain beating pitilessly down throughout the greater part of the night ; houses were few and trees scarcer, so that there was absolutely no chance whatever of getting shelter or rest after a fatiguing day's march.

At such times one feels inclined to let his mind revert to the comforts of home life, with the result that the misery of his present surroundings becomes intensified.

A breakfast consisting of hard biscuits and " coffee " is hardly calculated to inspire one with enthusiasm.

On Easter Sunday we again faced the dreary sodden veldt, and marched through a perfect quagmire into the small town of Edinburg, which during normal times has a population of about five hundred. It contains a typical Dutch Reformed Church, and is the centre of a district which sends huge supplies of wool and dairy produce to Johannesburg. As we passed through the streets we were struck by the gloomy appearance and the contemptuous look on the faces of the women standing at their doors, and by the conspicuous absence of men in the town.

We left Edinburg on the 16th, and before starting were served out with our first ration of rum, consisting of one and a half tablespoonfuls.

On the same day a general advance of the Division towards Reddersburg took place viâ the Riet River. This river crosses the Edinburg—Reddersburg Road, and is a characteristic one. During the rainy season or after a

From a photo by T. F. Andrews, Harrismith.

CAPTAIN E. F. GASCOIGNE, D.S.O., R.M. (Grenadier Guards).

GENERAL B. CAMPBELL.

LIEUTENANT HON. E. C. GORDON-LENNOX, A.D.C. (Scots Guards).

Major-General Barrington B. D. Campbell, C.V.O., C.B., commanded the 16th Brigade, Eighth Division, in South Africa, 1900-1-2.

From a photo by T. C. Anderson, Bournemouth.

CAPTAIN
R. F. GARDINER,
D.S.O., C.M.
Grenadier Guards.

GENERAL
D. CAMPBELL.

HON. F. C. [illegible]

Major-General Barrington D. D. Campbell, [illegible]
the 2nd Brigade, Rifleth [illegible] in South Africa, [illegible]

From photo by Russell & Sons.

GENERAL BOYES. CAPTAIN C. B. FITZHENRY, R.M.
(17th Brigade).

Major-General J. E. Boyes, C.B., commanded the 17th Brigade, *Eighth Division*, in South Africa, 1900-1.

which they appear to have realised the hopelessness of their task.

As a Division we have had the pleasure of co-operating with the Colonials and of finding them to be rich in those qualities which have so largely contributed to the success of British Arms during this campaign, being dashing, brave, full of resources, and thoroughly capable of playing the Boer at his own game. It is little wonder then that having repelled many fierce attacks, they soon made it apparent to the Boers that they must raise the siege. While the Force was in existence it had the almost unique distinction of having scored many successes without meeting with a single disaster. Time after time they scored a point or gained a position, not by officers' orders, but because each man realised the right thing to do, and did it at once. It is a matter for congratulation that their heroic defence has been recognised by the Government, who have granted a clasp for this fine example of pluck and endurance.

While the enemy were held round Wepener with the hope of success, Lord Roberts was despatching certain units of his Army to cut off the northern retreat of the enemy, and, if possible, effect their capture. It was in accordance with this plan that our Division was brought swiftly up the country to co-operate with Pole-Carew's Eleventh Division, General French's Cavalry Division, Chermside's Third Division, and the remainder of Brabant's Colonial Division.

On April 24th, our Division, in company with Chermside's, occupied positions facing the enemy, in anticipation of joining hands with Pole-Carew's Eleventh Division from Bloemfontein, which would govern any attacking movement.

The enemy were occupying the naturally strong position at Leeuw-Kop, midway between Winburg and Ficksburg; they also held Dewetsdorp, which covered the Boers who had raised the siege of Wepener, while the Boers at Leeuw-Kop were in turn covering their fellow burghers at Dewetsdorp.

A sufficient force of our troops was detached to hold an entrenched position on Roodepoort Hill, three miles on our left flank; mounted troops were also detached to cross the Modder River, south of Dewetsdorp, the whole operations being intended to bar the enemy's escape to the west, south and south-west.

On April 25th, the 17th Brigade moved out on our left flank, part of the 3rd Division moved north across the tableland of Wakkerstroom, and the 16th Brigade moved on Dewetsdorp. Our mounted troops made a wide detour in a south-easterly direction, joining hands with the Cavalry Division under General French on the Modder River.

These movements were followed by the enemy evacuating their position during the night, and consequently we advanced two or three miles north of Dewetsdorp.

On the following day the mounted troops of the Division were detached, and proceeded towards Wepener, supported by a Cavalry Brigade; the same day the 21st and 23rd Field Hospital and the 21st Bearer Company joined the Division from Edinburg. The remainder of the Division marched to Reitpoort on the Thaban'chu Road, leaving the 3rd Division at Dewetsdorp. It is a pretty little Dutch village, situated in a basin-shaped depression where orange and citron trees grow in abundance. The Boer ladies here kindly

advised us to go back, as the Boer Commando had only gone a little further on to wait for and kill us.

On April 27th the Division marched to Thaban'chu from Reitpoort, and joined French's Cavalry Division. We were up at 4 a.m., breakfasted on one biscuit and so-called coffee, and began our march at 5 a.m. The nights were now beginning to be bitterly cold, and with our scanty clothing and but a single blanket, we had the greatest difficulty in obtaining rest even after the exhaustion of a heavy day's march. Many had to forego the greater part of a well-earned rest, and pace up and down the lines to keep themselves warm, for half rations and heavy marching were beginning to have their natural effect in reducing our surplus flesh.

The fall of temperature at sun-set in these high table-lands is so rapid that as the sun disappears below the horizon one begins to feel a chilly sensation, and the jersey is quickly donned. These rapid variations of temperature are not confined to the passage from day to night ; sometimes in the midst of a run of the usual warm, brilliant weather, there will come a cold, bitter south-east wind, covering the sky with grey clouds.

At noon we halted for dinner : (half a pound of bully beef and a few small lunch biscuits), after which we resumed our march over a tract of the country characteristic of the whole State, mainly level, green and fresh after rain has fallen, but parched and dusty at other times.

Kopjes, which sometimes reach the height of six or seven thousand feet, are somewhat profusely scattered over the face of the country. A remarkable feature of most of these hills is that they are flat topped, and have often steep, even craggy, escarpments, due to the fact that the strata are horizontal ; very often a bed of hard

From a photo by R. D. Harris, Johannesburg.

TROMMEL OR "STARVATION CAMP." (*See p. 31.*)

From a photo by R. D. Harris, Johannesburg.

HAMMONIA. (See p. 63.

igneous rock protects the summit of the kopje from the disintegrating influences of the weather. The country, too, was bare, with practically no wood other than sparse scrub, and the heat during the day was great. This told heavily on the troops, for towards the end of the twenty-three miles' march a considerable number of the men had to fall to the rear of the column and arrived in camp after the troops had got settled down, the last stragglers crawling in during the small hours of the morning.

After crossing the muddy flood of the Modder River we entered a more hilly region, and soon came to the village of Thaban'chu. Close by is the bold rocky peak of the same name, which is a landmark for all the country round. Just before reaching the town we passed by the Kaffir location and ultimately reached our camping ground on the other side of the village.

Previous to the war, Thaban'chu was a large mission station. The only feature in the town of any interest is a stone church ; an artesian well, however, provides an excellent water supply.

It may be interesting to state, as showing the value of certain luxuries at this particular time, that a three-pound loaf fetched five shillings ; tobacco, ten shillings per quarter of a pound packet, and cigarettes, threepence to fourpence each. At this town we were promised a two days' rest, with a change of fresh meat instead of the monotonous bully beef ; but alas ! like so many subsequent promises, we were doomed to disappointment, for after showing field kit and rifles we moved off again on April 28th, at 7 p.m. The Infantry of the Division took up a position covering the roads from Thaban'chu to the enemy's positions on the hills to the north-east and were under fire in the afternoon.

The West Kents took up position on Thaban'chu Mountain, and engaged the enemy throughout the day, when they were relieved in the evening by the 2nd Grenadier Guards.

News now came to hand that a convoy of the Division escorted by Imperial Yeomanry (Derbyshires) under Major Dugdale, and K Company of the 2nd Scots Guards under Captain Willoughby, moving from Dewetsdorp on Thaban'chu, had been attacked by a considerable force of the enemy, who were occupying a position which commanded the road about fifteen miles to the south of Thaban'chu. At noon, General Rundle moved south to the Khabyana River to extricate the convoy on the Dewetsdorp Road. He had with him one squadron of the 16th Lancers (from Cavalry Division), six guns of the R.F.A., the West Kents and the 2nd Manchesters. This force was supported by the 1st Worcesters, who held a hill two miles south of Khabyana Poort. In the meantime, however, the convoy had been fortunately relieved from its difficulty by General Brabazon, so that General Rundle joined hands with the Imperial Yeomanry under Brabazon at Wildebeest's Spruit, and the convoy was safely brought into Thaban'chu, while the Khabyana Poort was held during the night by four companies of Imperial Yeomanry, two guns of the R.F.A., the 1st Worcesters and the 2nd Manchesters.

On April 30th the 74th Battery left the Division, and were replaced by the 2nd Battery from Bloemfontein.

On this day the enemy shelled our positions north and north-east continuously, and our casualties to this date were forty-one killed and wounded, and twenty-five missing. Amongst those wounded were Captain Buckle of the 2nd Royal West Kents, and Lieutenant Hon. M.

Parker, of the 2nd Grenadier Guards. The military situation directly affecting the Eighth Division was as follows :—

On April 30th, General French was commanding at Thaban'chu, and the Cavalry Division was between Thaban'chu and the railway north of Bloemfontein ; the Eighth Division being concentrated at Thaban'chu, holding positions to the north, east and south.

On the whole, the health of the troops appeared to be good, notwithstanding the fatiguing marches they had performed. The days were excessively hot, but they were followed by cool nights, which braced us up for the following day's march. The continuous use of bully beef, and the lack of fresh vegetables at this time, made the meals monotonous, and produced an intense craving for water, no matter what its quality.

The water supply at Reddersburg, Rosendale, Dewetsdorp and Thaban'chu was good and fairly abundant, but at Oorlog's Poort it was very muddy and scarce, while at Reitpoort it had a very disagreeable peaty flavour. Very little care was taken by many of the troops in getting their water. Bottles were frequently filled from watercourses containing the carcases of putrefying animals. One felt the want of water so intensely at times on the march, that any water of whatever quality was greedily drank, with the remark, "Here goes ; I'll chance this mixture." A good percentage of the troops suffered from diarrhœa and dysentery, and a considerable number fell out from blistered feet. There would probably have been fewer cases of the latter had there been more frequent opportunities for washing.

The hospital arrangements were not severely taxed at this period, but a house was prepared and suitably

equipped at Dewetsdorp, while the School and the Good Templars' Hall at Thaban'chu were also made ready.

On May 1st, the 2nd East Yorks and the 2nd Battery were sent to the north to reinforce the 11th (Pole-Carew's) Division at Kitchener's Hill, and took part in an action there. Four companies of the South Staffords went to Abraham's Kraal, north of Thaban'chu, to escort ammunition for General Ian Hamilton's troops, and the camp at Thaban'chu was so continuously shelled during the afternoon, that we had to remove it under cover. The 2nd East Yorks, four companies of the South Staffords, and the 2nd Battery returned to Thaban'chu, while the rest of the Infantry of the Division occupied Thaban'chu Mountain.

This is an enormous rocky peak visible on the eastern horizon from Bloemfontein, and famous in history as the rallying point of the various parties of emigrant Boers who quitted Cape Colony in the Great Trek of 1836-37; the mountain, which consists of three huge masses one above the other, requires a good deal of climbing, and their rations were conveyed with great difficulty by the men, the ascent taking from two to three hours.

It was a strange sight to see the troops, some with legs and shoulders of mutton, others with boxes of bully beef and boxes of biscuits, all struggling up the rocky slopes with their heavy loads. Now and again some unlucky fellow would drop his burden, with the result that a large part of the steep ascent had to be traversed again, no pleasant task when handicapped with a heavy and clumsy equipment, including a slung rifle.

The view from the top of this mountain is picturesque in the extreme—quite an extensive panorama is presented to the beholder. To the south-east lay the

rugged peak of Thaba Patchoa, standing out in the dazzling clearness of this dry African air, yet mellowed by distance to tints of delicate beauty. There was hardly a tree visible, save those which have been planted round the farm houses that one finds every seven or eight miles.

When the sun sank below the horizon the constellations came out with a brilliance unknown in England.

Water is abundant on the top of the mountain, and the rocks have assumed such fantastic shapes that according to tradition the Basutos have worshipped here for many generations.

However, during our sojourn on this mountain we had something to engage our attention of more pressing importance than the beautiful landscapes before us, for during the greater part of the time we were subjected to heavy artillery fire. The enemy had the range of our positions to a nicety, dropping shell after shell within a few yards of our sangars, and making the stones and earth fly, but thanks to the bad quality of their ammunition the shells seldom burst. We had an opportunity now and again of taking pot shots at distances of fifteen hundred to seventeen hundred yards, but for the most part the fighting was practically an artillery duel, with comparatively few casualties.

On May 3rd, General French left Thaban'chu, taking the 3rd and 4th Cavalry Brigades, and marched on Bloemfontein to join Lord Roberts' Army, there assembling for its great march to Pretoria, thus leaving General Rundle in command.

General Boyes, commanding the 17th Brigade, proceeded with the 1st Worcesters to reinforce the 2nd Manchesters at Khabyana Poort. Israel's Poort, some eight miles west, was taken over from the Cavalry

Division, and occupied by a company of the Imperial Yeomanry, and on May 4th the South Staffords escorted a convoy to Sanna's Post, all the sick being sent on into Bloemfontein.

With the return of the Cavalry Division to Bloemfontein ended those operations for cutting off the enemy who had invested Wepener, and those who had come southwards from the north-western part of the State for the purpose of attacking the line of British outposts.

Although we had failed to successfully cut off this part of the Boer Army, yet at the expense of heavy marches on half rations, we had succeeded in clearing this part of the Free State, which was of material assistance to the main British Army then marching on Pretoria.

On May 5th the 17th Brigade and the 1st Worcesters returned to Thaban'chu at daybreak from Khabyana Poort, and later in the morning the Worcesters, South Staffords, Royal West Kents, two batteries with half the 5th Company of the Royal Engineers and the 22nd Bearer Company, moved north-east, covered by seven companies of the Imperial Yeomanry under General Brabazon. They got in touch with and engaged the enemy until dark, when they bivouacked for the night, occupying the Pass north-east of Thaban'chu. General Campbell, with the 16th Brigade, at mid-day moved with two guns, the 2nd Grenadiers and half battalions of the 2nd Scots and 2nd East Yorks towards the Pass, east of Thaban'chu on the Ladybrand Road, and engaged the enemy, who were holding the Nek of the Pass. During this action, Captain Verschoyle, of the Grenadier Guards, fell mortally wounded. General Campbell's force returned to its camp east of Thaban'chu late in the evening of the same day.

During these actions the Pass north-east of Thaban'chu was held by the other half of the 2nd East Yorks, and heliographic communication was established with the Colonial Division under General Brabant south of the Khabyana River.

The following day General Boyes moved with four companies of the 1st Worcesters, 2nd Manchesters, 2nd West Kents and a battery, on the Dewetsdorp Road to support General Brabant, who was expecting an attack; they got in touch with Brabant and bivouacked on the Khabyana River. General Campbell, with the 16th Brigade and a battery, moved on the Ladybrand Road and advanced to Eden Farm near Egypte, six miles from Thaban'chu, and bivouacked, covered by two guns and ten companies of Imperial Yeomanry that had moved to Egypte, causing the enemy to retire on Ladybrand.

On May 7th, General Boyes' troops arrived at Thaban'chu from the Khabyana River at daybreak; the 17th Brigade moved also to Abraham's Kraal, detaching one company of the Imperial Yeomanry, the 2nd Manchesters and two guns to occupy Houtnek, the remaining Imperial Yeomanry and General Campbell's force remained at Egypte and Eden; the Colonial Division encamping at Khabyana River and the Worcesters garrisoning the Thaban'chu position. These movements were to prevent the enemy from invading the south-eastern portion of the State; also from investing Wepener or moving towards Smithfield through the Dewetsdorp-Wepener gap. Especial care was also exercised in order to control the country to the east of the railway from Bethulie and Norval's Pont up to Brandfort.

On this day we were treated to a luxury—cheese—

the first we had tasted since we left the boat; the difficulty, however, was in fairly dividing the piece allotted to our section. It finally worked out to three-quarters of an ounce per unit, or about enough to bait a mouse-trap.

A long looked for convoy arrived from Bloemfontein during the day, and we were again put on full rations, but only for a time, and we soon after reverted to the time-honoured half allowance.

On May 8th General Brabant with the Colonial Division arrived at Leeuwfontein, three miles north-east of Thaban'chu, and the following day patrols were pushed north from Houtnek and came in contact with the enemy.

On May 10th the Head Quarters of the Division were moved to Eden. General Campbell, with the 2nd Grenadiers and 2nd Scots Guards, part of the 79th Battery and Royal Engineers, with the 21st Bearer Company, left Eden for Audriesfontein, leaving the 2nd East Yorks, the remainder of the 79th Battery and the 21st Field Hospital behind.

The morning was fine and clear as we left camp, but the aspects of scenery to which we had been accustomed at home, such as variety of form, boldness of outline, the presence of water in lakes and running streams, and above all, foliage and verdure, were features unknown to the scenery of this part of South Africa. The march too was across a dry country, a parched and thirsty land where no clear brooks murmured through the meadow, no cascade sparkled from the cliff, but where mountain and plain alike are brown and dusty except during the short season of the rains. These features of South Africa, which were ever before us—the lack of water and the want of greenness—are those to which one finds

it hard to accustom himself, however thoroughly he may enjoy the brilliant sun and keen dry air which go along with them.

As we travelled over large areas of the State, the aspects of nature were so uniform as to become oppressively monotonous; under normal circumstances no doubt a good deal of the monotony of the scenery would disappear, but under the conditions in which we were placed the feeling becomes intolerable; weighted like dray horses, with straps galore and heavy accoutrements, doing long successive marches with insufficient food and clothing, one felt utterly disgusted with his environments.

To add to the monotony of things, the movements, both of the enemy and of our forces were kept an absolute secret; we rarely knew where we were going or the object of our march; but were part of an automatic machine, having no control over our body or mind, but simply required to respond blindly to the dictates of those placed in authority over us. This state of affairs may be necessary to the successful carrying out of military movements, but it inflicts an awful punishment day after day on those who have to execute them.

The day's march was long and fagging, and after doing about fifteen miles we reached our camping ground about 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Yeomanry of the Division escorted a convoy to Audriesfontein and reconnoitred the Thaba Pachoa Mountain, where the enemy were found in considerable numbers; here it halted for safety. The 1st and 2nd Brabant's Horse, together with the 1st Battalion of Imperial Yeomanry under Colonel Grenfell, moved on Lieuw River Drift and engaged

about three hundred of the enemy at Hoepelrock. We had a few casualties. The Colonial Division moved to Paardenvlei and sent five hundred Kaffrarian Rifles to Rapuls Kop to support Colonel Grenfell.

On May 11th we moved to a Kaffir Kraal, and built sangars along its front, taking the stones and boulders which lay in abundance around it. Here we found plenty of poultry, milk and eggs, but having no money, and being forbidden to loot or commandeer—a sore temptation to half-filled stomachs—we had to content ourselves with "cloying the hungry edge of appetite with bare imagination of a feast." One hungry soul offered a postal order to the Chief in payment for poultry, but of course it was refused.

These Kaffir Kraals are scattered at varying distances over the whole of the State, and a brief description of the appearance and manners of these people—so often seen on the line of march—will perhaps afford some interest.

The Kaffirs are the most numerous and powerful race of natives in South Africa. They are tall, muscular and well made, and their expression is always cheerful and contented. Their skin verges on black, and this, together with their short curly hair, is generally rubbed over with a solution of red ochre. The women are not so comely, but being accustomed to field labour as well as to domestic drudgery, they are robust in appearance, although of short stature as compared with the men. The colour of their eyes is sparkling jet, whilst their teeth are pearly white and remarkably regular. A mantle of tanned skins is the chief article of dress worn by both sexes: that of the female is distinguished by a thong of leather suspended from the shoulder and generally loaded with ornaments of various kinds. In

addition to the mantle, the women wear a kind of petticoat made of leather and a small apron fringed with beads; indeed, in common with their sisters of other lands they are passionately fond of ornaments of all kinds. These include beads of various sizes and colours, buckles, and iron or copper rings worn as bracelets or anklets. The huts are formed of sticks bent into a spherical shape and covered with rush matting, and when finished resemble huge beehives. Whilst the men and boys are engaged in attending to the cattle, the women and girls build the huts and manufacture their earthen cooking pots and calabashes. They cultivate a kind of millet known as Kaffir corn, from which they make their "jyoala" or native beer; this grain having undergone a regular process of drying, grinding, boiling and fermentation, somewhat after the plan of preparing malt in our own country.

These people have supplied a good deal of valuable information as to the whereabouts and strength of the enemy, and altogether have been valuable aids to our Intelligence Department. Their Kraals or groups of huts are familiar sights to troops on the march, and many a time their Kaffir corn bread, resembling in shape an old cannon ball, has been eagerly bought by the hungry troops.

On May 11th Brabant's Horse, under Colonel Grenfell, occupied Twee Kop, and General Campbell with the 16th Brigade, 2nd East Yorks and two guns moved to Rapuls Kop with a view to preventing any attempt of the enemy to move south. General Boyes, with the West Kents, South Staffords, 77th Battery, part of the Royal Engineers, 21st Field Hospital and the 21st Bearer Company, moved from Abraham's Kraal and Houtnek to Paardenvlei. At the same time the 2nd

Manchesters moved from Houtnek to Thaban'chu, and the Colonial Division from Paardenvlei to Diephering. Three companies of the Imperial Yeomanry were also sent to hold the line Houtnek-Chabani and Rokhoi.

On May 12th we received the first war news since landing in South Africa; it was announced on parade that General Rundle had received a telegram from Lord Roberts stating that he was within thirty miles of Kroonstad, that he had fought a rearguard action with the enemy, had inflicted a heavy blow on them, and that they were thoroughly demoralised. This news was most gratifying to the troops, who were entirely dependent for their information on these fragments of official news, for letters from home at this period were few and far between, owing to our distance from the railway, coupled with the danger and difficulty of getting waggons across country. Five companies of the Manchesters rejoined the 17th Brigade at Paardenvlei from Thaban'chu, and on this day also General Campbell's Force moved from Brackfontein about five miles further on, and reached their camping ground after night-fall; this left the 17th Brigade still at Paardenvlei, and the Colonial Division at Diephering.

On May 13th, the Head Quarters of the Division moved to Brand's Drift with a company of Imperial Yeomanry, and part of the 2nd Battery; the Colonial Division was rejoined by Colonel Grenfell's force, and moved also to Brand's Drift, patrols being pushed within four miles of Maquatling's Nek; these movements caused the enemy to retreat towards Senekal. Meanwhile the 17th Brigade moved forwards to Maseru, near the Caledon River. On this day we held voluntary Divine Service for the first time on the veldt. Great difficulty was always experienced in getting the troops

together for that purpose, in that the battalions were split up for outpost duty, which was exceedingly heavy owing to the physical features of the country. Opportunities for attending Divine Service were few, but whenever chances occurred the gatherings for that purpose were always well attended, and were much appreciated by the troops in general. It is rather a remarkable coincidence that Sunday appeared to be a fatal day to rest; the long marches and the monotonous routine of campaigning were seldom relieved by the peace and calm of the Sabbath. Prayers were invariably offered for the safety and well-being of the loved ones far away in the old country, for nothing touches the rough but gallant hearts of our men more than reference to those dear ones from whom they are separated by thousands of leagues of sea.

On May 14th the 17th Brigade moved from near Maseru to New Hanover, and General Campbell obtained a considerable quantity of meal and grain from the Lieuw River Mills, which was most acceptable at this period of short commons.

The following day the Head Quarters of the Division moved to Middle Spruit, the 17th Brigade to Zamenkomst, and the 16th Brigade from Brackfontein to Le Souvenir, while the Colonial Division moved from Brand's Drift to Clocolan, about fifteen miles south-west of Ficksburg. We were astir at 5 a.m. and marched off at 6.30. Our company was flank guard, and although the column halted at mid-day, just as the messmen appeared in sight with our meal, we received orders to move off. Disappointments of this sort were by no means exceptional, and they generally happened to those troops who were detailed for flank guard. These flank guards frequently involved a lot of fatigue and extra

marching over the dull, dry country. This was mostly level, but occasionally there were rocky ridges to be climbed and every now and again the familiar donga and spruit to be crossed. Then the ground becomes rougher and the track winds among and under a succession of abrupt kopjes. One is surprised that heavy waggons can so easily traverse such a country, for the road is usually a track for which art has done nothing, save in cutting a way through the banks of an occasional stream or donga. It is one of the curious features of South Africa that the rocky hills are sufficiently detached from one another to allow waggons and other vehicles to pass between them ; and the country is generally so dry that morasses for the greater part of the year form no obstacle whatever.

This day's march was over an extremely lonely track on which we scarcely met a human being ; no house or even a native hut was to be seen. The majority of us, I believe, before leaving England had pictured the probable scene of our operations as being associated with extensive tracts of fertile land, teeming with luxuriant vegetation and watered by sparkling rivulets or bubbling fountains ; in fact the missionary hymn "From Greenland's icy mountains," had led us to picture "Afric's sunny fountains rolling down their golden sand." I need hardly state that we have failed to realise these pleasant pictures, although we certainly had a good deal of Africa's sand in our tea and coffee.

We finished our day's march by reaching our camping ground in darkness, which falls almost as suddenly as a stage curtain in these latitudes.

The Head Quarters on May 16th moved to Zands Spruit, near Maquatling's Nek, and the 17th Brigade moved to Avondale in the direction of Brestler's Flats. Maquatling's Nek is a very difficult pass, and the road

is throughout commanded by precipitous hills; three companies of the 11th Battalion of Imperial Yeomanry took up a line, Mokelsi, Brestler's Flats and Winburg. This day's fifteen miles' march was unusually heavy, owing no doubt to the continued short rations and the oppressive heat of the sun. Our breakfast consisted of one and a quarter biscuits with the usual mixture of mud and coffee; and after leaving camp at 5.30 a.m., we did not break our fast until the same time in the evening, when stewed mutton and a few tablespoonfuls of flour were served out with a microscopic piece of fat. The sheep were thin, starved-looking wretches, with scarcely an ounce of fat on them, indeed, so small were they at this time that when skinned and dressed they appeared little bigger than a good sized hare. Unfortunately for campaigning in this country, fuel is always scarce, and on this occasion after traversing a considerable tract of country, we could hardly pick up enough ox-dung—the usual fuel—to fry our little cakes. These consisted simply of flour and water. During the last few days, about one hundred and fifty of the enemy surrendered.

On May 17th the Head Quarters of the Division and the 16th Brigade, moved to Morgenroode through Maquatling's Nek. The same day two companies of the Manchesters, two guns of the 77th Battery and the Volunteer Company of the South Staffords, escorting a convoy from Bloemfontein, arrived, and the 17th Brigade moved to Brestler's Flats. The nights were now accompanied by sharp frosts and heavy dews, but in spite of this our great coats remained on the waggons.

The following day the Divisional Head Quarters and the 16th Brigade moved to Trommel, well known to the troops of the Division as "Starvation Camp." Patrols that were pushed north were fired on, but the enemy were gradually falling back on Senekal.

CHAPTER III.

Distribution of the Division—Short Commons—Veldt Fires—On to Senekal—Mishap to the 34th Middlesex I.Y.—Occupation of Senekal—Battle of Biddulphsberg—Clements takes over Senekal—Laager Spruit—Health of the Troops—Weather, Camps and Water Supply

THE Division was now holding a line—Winburg, Brestler's Flats, Trommel and Clocolan. The line joining Bakefontein and Winburg was also held by three companies of the 11th Battalion of Imperial Yeomanry.

On May 18th the distribution of the troops of the division was as follows:—The 17th Brigade was at Brestler's Flats with lateral communication to Winburg and Trommel, while the Head Quarters of the Division, with the 16th Brigade, was at Trommel; the communication of the two Brigades was kept up by the Imperial Yeomanry and the mounted men of the Colonial Division.

On the 19th an empty convoy was sent to Winburg for supplies, and the sick of the Division from the Field Hospital were sent with it.

The following day, May 20th, the Colonial Division reconnoitred towards Ficksburg, where they came in contact with the enemy, while telegraphic communication was established between Brestler's Flats, Trommel and Clocolan.

Two days later Ficksburg was occupied by the Colonial Division, and this was followed by the occupation of Ladybrand. Ladybrand is a pretty little town

lying at the foot of a great flat-topped kopje, where the road crosses and looks across a fertile region of wheat growing and pasture land to the Caledon River and the Maluti and Molappo Mountains of Basutoland. Although we were in the south-eastern part of the Free State—the most fertile and one of the best corn-growing districts in South Africa—yet this period marks one of our most trying times of the campaign. Stringent orders were issued forbidding the troops to go near a farm, and military police were stationed at suitable places to carry this order into effect, while the column passed ; if Tommy dared to approach or enter a farm his name and number were promptly handed to the Provost-Marshal, who duly reported the offender to his commanding officer. Sometimes a ragged, half-starved Tommy would succeed in evading the vigilance of the police, and none of his comrades begrudged him the prospective feast, although would-be-buyers vied with each other in money bids for the tempting morsel of bread. Sometimes half a dozen Tommies would succeed in getting past these police piquets, and then followed a lively auction scene at the farm house—one bidding against the other for a limited number of loaves —which would be finally knocked down at the fancy price of a couple of shillings or half a crown per loaf. Poor Tommy Atkins, with his few pence per day, how often has he spent his month's pay of a sovereign, in a couple of days, to satisfy the cravings of hunger! It is not going too far to say that throughout this campaign, the majority of the troops have spent their daily pay of a few pence in supplementing the scanty Government allowance of food, in order to keep body and soul together. It is no exaggeration to say that Tommy has been toiling, marching, and fighting

during long weary months, for just the barest necessaries of life. It seemed strange that all this unnecessary privation should be endured when the farms were organized storehouses for the use of the Boers.

On the morning of May 24th, the Divisional Head Quarters, six companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, the 16th Brigade, with the 2nd and 79th Batteries of Artillery, and the Ammunition Column, marched to Kopjes Kraal, followed by a convoy escorted by two guns and half the Volunteer Company of the South Staffords. Simultaneously, the 17th Brigade moved from Brestler's Flats to the Priory, and the Colonial Division from Clocolan and Hammonia to Ficksburg. Reveillè sounded this day at 4 a.m., and we breakfasted by moonlight, being supplied with the rare luxury of a one-pound loaf from a field bakery. These loaves were not the best samples of the baker's art, and although, too, their specific gravity was high, yet they were much appreciated by the famished troops.

The march was a heavy one of about eighteen miles and was accomplished without halting for dinner, so that when we arrived in camp at 3 p.m. the camp kettles were soon on the fire, and we eventually sat down to a tea and dinner combined. It is a curious sight to see the scores of fires lit by the troops in camp for the purpose of boiling water for tea, of cooking their cakes —more familiarly called "dough-boys"—or, in the case of the more fortunate, for the purpose of boiling a fowl which they have been lucky enough to pick up on the march.

In honour of our Sovereign Lady's birthday we were served out with a double ration of rum, and drank her health, after which the whole troops in their respective camps gave three cheers for Her Majesty, and sang "God save the Queen."

When darkness fell the country for miles round was lighted by a succession of great grass fires. Such fires are a very common sight in South Africa, but happily less dangerous than on the prairies of America, for the grass is usually short and the fire moves more slowly; nevertheless they are a source of considerable danger to the camps, and as soon as the fires are seen to be approaching, the troops are required to immediately turn out and beat them out with the aid of coats and blankets. Sometimes they are accidental, being frequently caused by sparks from the small fires of ox-dung used by the troops in cooking, or by the careless dropping of a lighted brand. In rarer instances they have been lit by the enemy with the object of showing up the movements of our troops.

These conflagrations are also caused by the farmers or natives firing the grass with the object of getting a fresh growth of young grass. Thus, during the dry season, nearly half the rolling veldt is charred, this giving the country a most desolate appearance; indeed, almost every night one sees the glow of these fires somewhere in the distance.

On May 25th the Divisional Head Quarters, six companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, and the 16th Brigade marched on Senekal. The 34th Company of the Middlesex Yeomanry, forming the advance guard under Major Dalbiac, reached Senekal, when the town surrendered and was occupied; but shortly afterwards a strong commando of the enemy occupying a hill and ravines near the town, endeavoured to surround it and cut it off. Our casualties were Major Dalbiac* and three men killed; Lieutenant Kennard and three men

* Major Dalbiac was formerly in the Royal Artillery, from which he retired in 1887. He served in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, and distinguished himself at *Tel-el-Kebir*. He held a Captain's Commission in the Yeomanry.

wounded with thirteen troopers taken prisoners, all Middlesex Yeomanry. The enemy's losses were not known but they left Field Cornet Hans Nel and one burgher dead on the field. On ascertaining the cause of the firing, the 16th Brigade, under General Campbell's command advanced immediately on the town, but the Boers only waited for a few long range shells and then withdrew at the gallop eastward. The 2nd Grenadiers occupied the town at night while the 16th and 17th Brigades camped outside the town.

* * * *

The following is a personal account of this disaster by Trooper F. J. B. Lee, who was one of the captured Middlesex troopers.

When nearing Senekal I was despatched to the main body with a message, and reached Senekal about three hours after the company had entered the town. On my arrival about 1.30 p.m., I found that pickets had been placed in the town as well as on the hill on the Bethlehem Road, which overlooked Senekal from the Biddulphsberg direction. While the destruction of surrendered arms was in progress, firing commenced to our rear, near the road by which I had just entered the town, and directly after a cossack post came in with the report that the enemy were in force in that direction.

Thirty of our men were out in many directions around the town and a similar number were in the town under the command of Major Dalbiac and Lieutenant Kennard.

The Major, to whom I at once reported myself, sent an order to Lieutenant Kennard for him to join forces immediately and attack the enemy in the direction from which the firing was heard.

It suddenly ceased, however, but immediately broke out on the hill, east of the town.

As we wheeled about and extended to gallop up the hill, the side of which was both rocky and steep, the firing at our rear again commenced, and the "sing" of the bullets with the little spurts of dust around us, told of good practice. Owing to the utter impossibility of scaling the almost inaccessible hillside with anything approaching proper formation, some reached the table-top before others, among the first being the Major.

My horse was a good climber, so even though I had to go crab-fashion awhile to get up, I was about the sixth after him. Several horses fell during this scrambling climb and four men were hit.

With even so few as had successfully made the ascent, the Major ordered the advance at the gallop, with the object of holding the hill-top. I glanced round and saw poor Shells, my sergeant, walking, for his horse had come down. Immediately he was shot in the back. The short crack of the Mauser seemed now general on all sides, while the musical "ping" of the bullet was incessant.

A sharp gallop brought us right upon the enemy, who were coming over the further crest in a group, dismounted. My first sight of the enemy was one leading three horses, two of them being greys. I remember this, for the thought of how, in contrast to them, we had coloured our white horses with Condy's, crossed my mind as I dismounted to fire. Had we been cavalry at that moment, armed with sword or lance, our sudden appearance having doubtless surprised them, our pace would have taken us through and through them.

"Hold the hill!" cried the Major; but as the group of Boers in front fell behind the cover of the crest-line

of rocks, they opened point blank on us. Our effective strength was about twenty, and on our left flank we were raked by the enemy at short range. Sergeant Meek, who had been through the Afghan and Chitral campaigns, had by now succeeded in getting to the hill-top, and almost immediately had his horse shot; he however, succeeded in getting a stray Boer pony, but had not proceeded ten yards when that also was shot.

The Major was the first to fall, shot dead through the neck; then poor old Dean, who that morning had got his commission, and who was firing from the knee.

Personally, I was crawling between shots to an ant-hill, my mare being led by the reins round my left wrist. She stood perfectly still, and at the finish was untouched.

Our remaining officer, Lieutenant Kennard, was shot through the face and leg, and exposed as we were, men were hit one after another until thirteen were left.

Seeing we were surrounded in an untenable position without supports, further resistance was thought by the Lieutenant, who had handed the command over to Sergt. Tomlin, not only to be hopeless against such odds, but a useless further sacrifice of life.

Thirteen of us laid down our arms, after which I was allowed, under escort, to go to one part of our position to bring away greatcoats and blankets off the dead horses. The Major was lying chest downwards with his face on one side, while Dean, who still wore his spectacles, was huddled in a heap.

With Sergeant Meek, I obtained the Major's wrist-watch to give to his relatives should we reach England, but it was demanded from us by a Boer, to whom we handed it. In the laager to which we were taken,

however, we mentioned the matter to the Commandant, who ordered its return to Sergt. Meek. Having collected as many coats, blankets and helmets as I could carry, for we had discarded the last-named whilst firing, I rejoined my comrades.

A dozen horses were shot, some sitting on their haunches, being wounded in their hindquarters, while others were vainly trying to rise. These poor brutes were forthwith killed.

The wounded were left for the Boer ambulance, while we were marched away under strong escort towards Biddulphsberg. What our feelings were few who have not been under similar circumstances can know. Where is C.? What has become of T.? Who saw O. last? These questions in the main eliciting doubtful or unsatisfactory replies, the thirteen surviving prisoners of war of the 34th Company Imperial Yeomanry trudged slowly, heavily laden in mind and body, to their first night's resting place in an enemy's laager.

* * * *

On May 26th, the Divisional Head Quarters moved into Senekal, the 2nd Scots occupied the hill east of the town, while the 17th Brigade camped about two miles south-west of Senekal on the Winburg Road. The Hants Yeomanry pushed patrols towards Tafel Kop, and came in contact with the enemy; Trooper Dredge was killed, three others were wounded, including Lieutenant Johnson, and seven horses hit. During the day over a hundred Boers surrendered.

The following day Yeomanry patrols were again pushed north-east and south-east in different directions, and came in contact with the enemy around Senekal. Driscoll's Scouts joined the Divisional Head Quarters,

and an empty convoy was sent to Winburg for supplies, taking the sick under an escort of Imperial Yeomanry. The 16th Brigade moved one and a quarter miles east of Senekal, while the Colonial Division moved to Hammonia, leaving a garrison at Ficksburg, and sending a force of one hundred and fifty mounted men to Klip Drift Nek to hold that place. Telegraphic communication was open with Ficksburg, but was interrupted between Senekal and Winburg.

At Senekal a voluntary church service was ordered in the morning, and the troops marched to the Dutch Reformed Church. General Rundle and his staff were present and the building was filled to overflowing. The Presbyterian minister, the Rev. J. R. Wilson, preached a telling and impressive sermon to a purely military congregation, many of whom were destined to enter the church again, not as worshippers but as wounded, for the building was subsequently turned into a temporary hospital, consequent on the heavy casualties of the Battle of Biddulphsberg. The church is a new one with excellent fittings and a good organ.

At noon on the following day, General Rundle received a message by a native runner from Lieutenant-Colonel Spragge, commanding the 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry at Lindley, saying that he was there with five hundred men and one day's food and in a position from which it was difficult to extricate himself. With this object in view, General Rundle decided to move at once on the Bethlehem Road, hoping thereby to relieve pressure on Lindley. The following troops marched at 2 p.m. to a camp at Sand Spruit, four miles east of Senekal on the Bethlehem Road :—Divisional Head Quarters, five companies of Imperial Yeomanry, two batteries of Artillery (the 2nd and 79th), 16th

CAMP UNDER SENEKAL KOPJE, MAY, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 39.)

(See p. 15.)

Rudolfelusberg. May 29th, 1900.

MIDDLESEX KOPJE. IN ACTION, JUNE, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 61.)

(*See p. 106.*)

TYPICAL SCENERY IN THE CALEDON VALLEY.

Brigade with the 2nd Grenadier Guards, the 2nd Scots Guards and the 2nd East Yorks. Also the 2nd Royal West Kents, Driscoll's Scouts, Ammunition Column, 21st Bearer Company, 21st Field Hospital, half company of the Royal Engineers, leaving in Senekal under General Boyes, one company of the Imperial Yeomanry, the 77th Battery of Artillery, the 1st South Staffords, and the 2nd Manchesters. The Imperial Yeomanry under Colonel Blair, and Driscoll's Scouts, reconnoitred towards Biddulphsberg, where the enemy were found to be in strong position; these mounted troops met both rifle and artillery fire. A farmhouse on the north-east of the Berg was flying a white flag, and in accordance with orders, two of Driscoll's Scouts were dispatched to ascertain if any Boers there wished to surrender. On approaching the farm a party of Boers treacherously opened fire on them, with the result that one was killed on the spot (Flowers), and the other (Dennison), was dangerously wounded.

Biddulphsberg is a series of huge kopjes nine miles from Senekal and lays on the northern side of the Senekal-Bethlehem Road, while the upper course of the Zand River winds round the northern face of these natural fortresses.

We reached our camping ground just as darkness fell and sat down to our tea in the darkness. The night was bitterly cold and the camping ground was of the roughest character; for being situated at the base of a kopje it consisted of sharp and rocky stones and gave us little chance of taking a good night's rest; one blanket, with no great coat, being the only covering we had to shield us from the piercing cold of that night.

May 29th will always be remembered as a red-letter day in the history of the Eighth Division.

The troops moved at 6 a.m. as follows:—One company of Imperial Yeomanry towards Tafelberg and one company along the Bethlehem Road towards Biddulphsberg. A hill north-east of the previous night's camp, and south-west of Biddulphsberg, was held by three companies of the 2nd East Yorks and two guns. Four companies of the 2nd East Yorks remained as guard to the baggage which had crossed the Zand Spruit and was parked two miles west of Biddulphsberg. Three companies of the Imperial Yeomanry moved round the north of the Berg, followed by the remainder of the force, which moved round the right of the Boer position and drew fire from two of their guns, one placed in a stone kraal near a farm on the north-east of Biddulphsberg, and a second on a hill to the east. At 10.30 a.m. our artillery shelled the farm and the northern base of Biddulphsberg. At 11.30 a.m. the 2nd Grenadier Guards advanced against the farm, supported by the 2nd Scots Guards, while the 2nd Royal West Kents were held in reserve. The Imperial Yeomanry held a position to the east commanding the road leading from Lindley, and held in check a force of the enemy advancing from that direction. The attack, however, was not pressed, as news came to hand that the 12th Brigade under General Clements was moving on Senekal, and that the Division was required to proceed to Ficksburg. Under these circumstances the troops were withdrawn about 4 p.m., the 2nd Scots Guards and the 2nd West Kents covering the retirement of the 2nd Grenadier Guards.

The following is a personal narrative—

We arose shortly after 4, and having received orders

to be ready to move off at any moment, partook of a hasty breakfast, consisting of half a pint of coffee, minus sugar and milk, and a small cake, whose sole ingredients were flour and water.

By 4.30 we were ready, although we did not move off until 7, having to pace up and down in a biting, frosty wind for two or three hours to keep warm.

Our force was directed by General Rundle, and consisted of General Campbell's Brigade, viz., the 2nd Grenadier Guards, 2nd Scots Guards, and the 2nd East Yorks, strengthened by the 2nd Royal West Kents. The mounted troops were under the command of Colonel Blair, and the Artillery comprised the 2nd and 79th Batteries of R.F.A., under the command of Colonel Pratt.

The ground over which we had to march was covered by a dense growth of tall dried grass of a very inflammable nature. In the distance huge volumes of smoke were rising from fired grass, through which we were shortly to pass. In addition to this parched vegetation, were considerable patches of mealies, the results of native industry, which, when fired, speedily became a charred desolation.

A straggling march of about five or six miles soon brought us to the Boer stronghold—Biddulphsberg. Field glasses were soon at work scrutinising the slopes and rocky faces of the mountain, but not a single Boer could be seen. However, the guns were unlimbered and were quickly searching its kloofs and seams with shrapnel, but failed to reveal the fact that the Boer position was still strongly held.

Many were the speculations as to whether the enemy had withdrawn during the night—a favourite Boer dodge—or whether they were keeping out of sight with

the object of laying a trap and encouraging an unwary advance. Evidently General Rundle suspected their presence in spite of their absolute silence.

The veldt was now burning for miles round, and with the wind veering, the flames were carried fiercely and rapidly towards the kopje. Much has been said about the careless dropping of pipe-lights—this may have been the case—but from what I observed the veldt seemed to have been fired very early in the morning, and we had to traverse large areas of already blackened and burned veldt.

For a while we halted under cover of a mealie field, while the artillery searched every likely place on the face of the mountain. It was now seen that an attack was to be made.

The 2nd Grenadiers under Colonel Lloyd were ordered to move forward in attack formation, while the 2nd Scots Guards under Colonel Romilly and the West Kents were to support them. At the same time, the 2nd Battery opened fire on the farm to the north-east of the Berg, which had flown the white flag the previous day, and from which place the two Driscoll's Scouts had been hit. Scarcely had the order been given for the Grenadiers to advance when shells in quick succession came from the Boer gun above the farm ; this appeared to be the signal for the enemy's rifle fire to commence, and our first casualty was Drummer Clark, shot through the wrist.

Meanwhile the Boers were pelting shell after shell over our heads, presumably at the field batteries to our rear. The 2nd Battery was concentrating the fire from four of its guns on to this Boer gun in the cattle kraal, but not being successful in silencing it, the 79th Battery was ordered up, with better results.

By this time the flames had reached us, so that we were obliged to rush through the zone of flames which shot up some five or six feet high. The enemy's fire increased, and many were shot down whilst in the act of rushing through the flames. Numbers too of the wounded were lying helpless on the ground, and were caught by the advancing flames. Their cries for help were most heartrending.

For a while the Boers concentrated their attention on our transport, which had evidently misjudged the range, for they speedily retired in some confusion to a sate distance.

Men were now falling fast, and amidst the deafening roar of rifle and artillery fire, stretcher bearers were busy carrying their ghastly loads of dead and dying through the dense clouds of smoke, to the field dressing-stations far to the rear.

The scenes on the battlefield at this stage were beyond description ; for several minutes together, Biddulphsberg was enveloped in dense rolling volumes of smoke, and at frequent intervals wounded men, with pallid and blood besmirched faces, passed through the firing line. Those able to walk were holding their helmets over the faces of their more helpless stretcher-borne comrades, to shield them from the fierce flames through which they had to pass. Now and again the stretchers contained a motionless figure, and the coarse brown army blanket drawn kindly over the face told its own message. The work of the singed and scorched stretcher-bearers became so great that the fatal cases had to be left on the field, and were ultimately brought away in the presence of the Boers, long after the troops had retired.

During the height of the action, Colonel Lloyd was badly wounded, and was gallantly attended by Drummer

Haines, who, whilst in the act of supporting his colonel, was also himself badly wounded.

By this time the fire had extended to the foot of the Berg, and the ground occupied by the troops was charred, thereby shewing up the khaki uniforms most conspicuously ; the wonder is that, during the many hours we were required to lie under fire under these conditions, our casualty list was not much heavier.

Towards sundown the order came to retire, and as the troops began moving off to the right the enemy opened fire with renewed vigour ; indeed, during this period the majority of the casualties occurred ; perhaps the most deadly fire came from a donga which encircled the base of the kopje. The whole retirement was admirably and coolly carried out, the troops moving off the field as if on parade. The artillery covered the retirement, and throughout the time searched the scars and seams of the mountain with common shell and shrapnel, altogether firing some eight hundred rounds.

When the Grenadiers had retired out of the zone of fire, it was afterwards discovered that several of their wounded had been left on the burning veldt. It is scarcely necessary to add that the sufferings of these poor fellows was too horrible to contemplate. Lieut. Quilter of the Grenadiers, therefore, took about twenty men, who had volunteered from his company, to the rescue of their helpless comrades, and although subjected to heavy fire, succeeded in bringing them safely away.

After Lieutenant Quilter and his heroic comrades had completed their task, it was reported that there were still wounded on the burning veldt. Private Daniels rushed back and succeeded in bringing another wounded comrade out of further danger, although in the attempt

he was badly burned himself. In fact, there were countless acts of heroism during the day, and the Victoria Cross was won over and over again by the gallantry of many an unchronicled act.

From reliable sources we learnt that the Boers had suffered considerably from our shell fire, and amongst those wounded was General De Villiers, who fell mortally wounded. The most galling fact of the day was that although subjected to heavy fire, we were only able to respond feebly to it.

Our casualty list was heavy, about forty killed and one hundred and forty wounded, but by far the greatest number of these casualties fell to the Grenadiers, who were more than decimated. Sergeant Cox and seven men of this regiment, too, were cut off by fire and taken prisoners. In the evening of this eventful day the troops marched back to camp and partook of dinner, the first meal since the early morning breakfast.

Biddulphsberg, May 29th, 1900.

The following is an analysis of the casualties during this engagement :—

	Officers wounded.	N.C.O's and Men killed.	N.C.O's and Men wounded.	N.C.O's and Men prisoners.	Total.
2nd Grenadier Guards	5	33	92*	9	139
2nd Scots Guards ...	1	4	19*	—	24
2nd Royal West Kents	—	—	8	—	8
79th Battery R.F.A....	—	—	1	—	1
4th Battalion I.Y. ...	—	1	3	2	6
	6	38	123*	11	178

* Many died subsequently from the result of wounds and burns.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

2nd Grenadier Guards.

Lt.-Col. F. Lloyd (O.C.) Capt. and Adjt. C. E. Corkran.
Captain G. L. Bonham. Lieutenant E. Seymour.
Lieutenant A. H. Murray.

2nd Scots Guards.

Major F. W. Romilly (O.C.)

In a Special Divisional Order published December 19, 1900, at Harrismith, Corporal W. Dickens, 2nd Grenadier Guards, and Corporal E. F. Orford, 2nd Scots Guards, were recommended for valour.

They were, however, each subsequently granted the Distinguished Conduct Medal for the following meritorious service :—

Corporal Dickens succeeded in carrying, under fire, to a place of safety, the late Lieutenant Murray, who was wounded and lying exposed to the grass fires at Biddulphsberg.

Corporal Orford, of Captain Godman's Company (R.F.), succeeded also, under fire of the enemy, in rescuing three wounded Grenadiers who were lying exposed to the approaching flames. He fortunately possessed wire-nippers, and was thus able to reach his helpless comrades by cutting through a stout barbed wire fence.

The following day, May 30th, the Division moved to Senekal, where the Divisional Head Quarters were established, and the wounded were comfortably housed in the church and other buildings of the town. Regimental transport was sent this day from Senekal to Winburg for the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment, who completed the infantry battalions of the 16th Brigade. Several of our company, including myself,

were detailed for burying those who had fallen on the previous day. The bodies were lying at the Field Hospital, and were conveyed in an ambulance waggon to the banks of a spruit about half a mile from the hospital. Their grave is situated near a mimosa tree, and they are buried just as they fell, but without their equipment. Among those whom we interred I recognised two well-known to me, Private McKay, formerly a piper in our battalion, and Sergeant Schuard, one of our company section commanders, who was shot through the heart just after the order to retire was received. The Rev. J. R. Wilson and the Roman Catholic Priest—whose name I did not learn—each read their respective funeral services, and the bodies were covered by a blanket and consigned to their last resting place "— and our little life is rounded with a sleep." The whole service had to be hastily performed, for the troops had withdrawn to Senekal and had left us behind as a funeral party. On the tree near the grave was pinned a leaf torn from a pocket book, on which were written the following words:—"This tree is not to be cut down for it marks the resting place of those who fell on May 29th, 1900. (Signed) Major-General B. Campbell, Commanding 16th Brigade."

It may be interesting to add that the ambulance waggon used for the removal of their bodies was an old fashioned Boer ambulance waggon, captured at Senekal, where it had brought in the wounded Middlesex Yeomanry of the 26th. It was used to convey the dead and wounded from Biddulphsberg to the Field Hospital, and has now (February, 1901) been sent to London for exhibition.

On May 31st, Senekal having been handed over to Major-General Clements, the Divisional Head Quarters, six companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, the 16th Brigade, three Batteries of Artillery, the Ammunition Column, the Royal Engineers, and Driscoll's Scouts, marched to Laager Spruit towards Ficksburg, the enemy watching our advance from our left flank.

Before marching off we were formed up and congratulated on our conduct of May 29th, and were told that General Rundle had written to Lord Roberts informing him of the behaviour of all the troops under fire. Colonel Romilly also explained the tactics of May 29th, adding that they had been entirely successful. As we passed out of Senekal we saw many of the wounded standing outside the temporary hospital, and further on we exchanged cheers with the Grenadiers, whom we had not seen since the Biddulphsberg day. We marched about twelve miles, and halted for the night at Laager Spruit, the march being an easy one in spite of the heat of the day, which was followed by a sharp, frosty night.

The military situation directly affecting the Eighth Division was as follows:—On May 31st, the Division vacated Senekal on its occupation by the 12th Brigade under General Clements, and was moving on Ficksburg to join hands with the Colonial Division under General Brabant. This movement was to prevent the enemy moving south of the Winburg-Trommel-Ficksburg line into the south-eastern portion of the Orange River Colony. The line of communication for supplies was Winburg, Trommel and Hammonia.

Fortunately for the troops the climate of the Orange

River Colony is remarkable for its dryness. The Drakensberg Mountains check the rains from the east, while the Stormberg acts in a similar way in the south. It is the absence of rain, together with the considerable elevation of the country, that gives the air its fresh, keen, bracing quality—the quality which enabled the troops to support the noonday heat of the sun and keep their strained physical frames in vigour in spite of the insufficiency of food and of warm clothing at night. The excellent health of the troops was remarkable in face of the fact that they were called upon to lie out on the open veldt tentless and with only one blanket each, The extra blankets had been left behind owing to the great difficulties of transport. Throughout the month of May the days—with very few exceptions—were warm and bright, while the nights and early mornings got gradually colder until sharp, hard frosts appeared.

On the whole, the camping grounds were good, although the water supply in the majority of instances was very scanty, and frequently of very indifferent quality. The oxen and mules of the transport lost considerably in condition at Thaban'chu, as good grazing was remote from the town, and the military position did not admit of their being sent any distance from camp to graze.

At Trommel we had an excellent camp and water supply, but unfortunately an exceedingly limited supply of food. The spot was almost an ideal one, being situated on the rising ground of a succession of miniature tablelands enclosing a chain of water basins, the highest one being utilised for drinking purposes, while the remainder were used for watering the cattle and for

washing purposes. The restrictions imposed upon the troops, however, gave few facilities for availing themselves of the opportunity of washing. The 21st and 23rd Field Hospitals camped at Thaban'chu, but subsequently moved away with their respective Brigades, leaving the sick in the temporary hospital of the town.

CHAPTER IV.

Marching and Counter-marching on the Senekal—Ficksburg Road—Klip Drift Nek—Hammonia—Ficksburg—Rear-guard Action near Senekal—Action at Lilliefontein—With the Enemy as a Prisoner of War—Distribution of the Division—Weather and Camps.

JUNE 1ST.—Reveillé at 5.30; we breakfasted at 6, and marched off at 7 in the direction of Ficksburg, from Laager Spruit. The force comprised six companies of Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, Brigade Division of Artillery, Ammunition Column, No. 5 Company of Royal Engineers, the Infantry of the Division, and the Supply Column. The 16th Brigade protected the transport.

The 2nd Battalion Scots Guards and the 2nd Battalion East Yorks were on the right flank, while the 2nd Grenadiers were rear guard. Our left flank was again threatened by the enemy, who were moving parallel to our line of march. One company of Imperial Yeomanry moved on to Klip Drift Nek and joined three squadrons and two guns of the Colonial Division there. The baggage guards and all armed men not marching with their units, moved in groups on the threatened flanks, which were protected by mounted troops. The ammunition and baggage train moved on a broad front of many waggons. This enables it to be more efficiently protected, but it is very wearying to the oxen and mules, and increases the time occupied on the march.

It is the character of the country that has permitted the waggon to become so important a factor in South African travelling; the country through which we passed, though high, was not generally rugged, but consisted of a vast rolling plain, across which the waggons moved with no great difficulty. The ranges of hills encountered here and there, were generally traversed by passes or neks, which, though stony, are not impracticable for ox-waggons. Nevertheless, in the course of our march, a large amount of extra work was thrown upon the oxen, which were in a poor condition to start with. The day was warm and was followed by a hard frost; indeed, the water in our bottles was covered with a considerable thickness of ice, and the greatcoat forming our outer covering was stiff with frost.

On June 2nd, the 2nd Scots Guards moved to Klip Drift Nek at 4 a.m. This nek commanded the road to Hammonia, and is the entrance into the mountainous districts of Ficksburg and Hammonia. About two hours after its occupation, the remainder of the force moved on Hammonia, and passed unmolested through the Nek, suitable precautions having been taken to ensure the safety and protection of our baggage, for the enemy were still threatening our left flank.

The following troops were left to occupy this strategic position: the 4th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, about one hundred men of the Colonial Division, and the 2nd West Kents, together with two guns. Our company was up at 3 a.m., and as previously stated, marched off at 4 a.m. in the dark.

The movements of troops were always kept an absolute secret, so that when we marched off many were the speculations as to the object of it.

Tommy Atkins is excellent as an all-round speculator, particularly in his so-called "fads"; if any definite news is wanting on a movement, there are always a few who have heard something "on the quiet." Of course you must promise solemnly that you will keep it secret, as it has been conveyed by such and such an officer's servant, or so and so, who heard it in the officers' mess; then follows the secret information imparted in a whisper.

During an expedition of this kind, smoking and talking are of course forbidden. The march in the dark proved a typical one, for we experienced the usual stumbling over countless ant-hills and the frequent stepping into innumerable holes, and the usual consequent shaking occasioned by the fall. During these frosty nights, how acceptable a pair of gloves would have been, for being without trouser pockets we had to thrust our benumbed hands up the sleeves of our coats.

We reached the Nek just as the "morn with russet mantle clad, stepped o'er the dew of yon high eastward hill," and took up suitable positions until the column passed safely through, after which we joined the rear guard. We marched another ten miles and reached Hammonia for the first time, where we found the Colonial Division already encamped. They looked well fed; and with their clean linen presented quite a striking contrast to us—ragged, hungry and dirty as we were. There was a very good watermill near the camp, capable of turning out one hundred and fifty sacks of flour a day, and it proved invaluable to us, for large quantities of wheat were stored in various buildings, it being plentiful in the district. After tea we enjoyed a rest and a wash, and listened to the strains of a band.

On June 3rd the following troops were detailed as a temporary garrison at Klip Drift Nek, under the command of Major-General Boyes: One hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division, four guns of the 2nd Battery, a section of Royal Engineers, 2nd Battalion West Kents, 1st Battalion S. Staffords, half of the 22nd Bearer Company, and half of the 23rd Field Hospital. On this day also a convoy with supplies arrived at Hammonia from Winburg.

The following day the troops were distributed as follows: Ficksburg was garrisoned under Lieut.-Colonel Reay with about half the 2nd Manchesters, two companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, fifty mounted men of the Colonial Division, two guns of the 2nd Battery, and one section of the Engineers.

Willow Grange, midway between Hammonia and Ficksburg, was held by three hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division. This distribution of troops left Hammonia with the Head Quarters of the Eighth and Colonial Divisions, together with the following troops: the 7th, 8th, and 9th Companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, the 77th and 79th Field Batteries of Artillery, two Companies of the 2nd Manchesters, the Ammunition Column, the 16th Brigade (three battalions), half of the Company of Engineers, Driscoll's Scouts, the 21st Bearer Company, the 21st Field Hospital and the Supply Park with about twelve hundred men of the Colonial Division. One Company of the Imperial Yeomanry escorted an empty convoy going to Winburg for supplies. General Rundle accompanied a reconnaissance of three companies of Imperial Yeomanry and three hundred of the Colonial Division towards Rooikrantz, between Fouriesburg and Witkop, where the enemy were located in considerable numbers.

During our brief stay at Hammonia we enjoyed the relaxation of witnessing a football match between two scratch teams of the two Guards' battalions, the Scots winning by three goals to nil. Bugle calls for the first time during the campaign were heard from the Colonial Division.

June 5th commenced with a sharp frosty morning, and our company went on outpost duty about a couple of miles from the camp. The scenery here was highly picturesque, for it was of a different character to what we had previously witnessed. We were occupying high vantage ground among a short range of friable rocks, which had decomposed under the influence of the weather into curiously picturesque and fantastic forms, with crags riven to their base and detached pillars supporting blocks and tabular masses of rock, something similar to that of the summit of Thaban'chu Mountain. These long ranges of pinnacles of every kind of shape are especially striking when they stand out against the brilliantly clear evening sky, and when the sun sank in golden clouds the scenery was indeed romantic.

Within a few yards of our post was a beautifully clear crystal spring—a great luxury as compared with the water to which we had been accustomed. In the evening we heard the welcome news that Lord Roberts had entered Pretoria, and in honour of that occasion a salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the Royal Field Artillery. That evening a double ration of rum was issued—or rather to speak more correctly, a double quantity of the ordinary ration. I suppose the rough nature of the country over which it had to be conveyed to the men on outpost was generally answerable for a loss of thirty to forty per cent. of the quantity originally measured out, the amount which usually found its way to the men being about one and a half tablespoonfuls.

In the camp another football match was played between the 2nd Scots Guards and the Cape Mounted Rifles, the advantage laying with the former by one goal to nil.

Our force at Klip Drift Nek was already in touch with the Boer patrols and all the practicable passes in the mountains east of our positions were effectively held by the enemy.

June 6th, the 2nd Scots Guards moved from Hammonia to Klip Drift Nek and the 2nd West Kents from Klip Drift Nek to Hammonia. A reconnaissance of Imperial Yeomanry and Colonials was made eastwards towards Rooikrantz, with the result that the enemy were located about six miles east of Klip Drift Nek. The following day our telegraphic communication with Senekal was interrupted until late in the afternoon. This day witnessed the following movements of troops : The 2nd Scots Guards from Klip Drift Nek to Klip River Farm ; the Head Quarters of the 16th Brigade from Hammonia to Klip Drift Nek ; the Head Quarters of the 17th Brigade (four guns of the 2nd Battery and the South Staffords), from Klip Drift Nek to Hammonia.

We were up at 6 a.m. and off about 9, marching across deep dongas and over breezy pastures for some six or seven miles. On the march we were caught in a heavy thunderstorm, and were soon drenched to the skin. Fortunately for us the number of rainy days is extremely small in this country, but on this occasion it rained throughout the greater part of the night, and as we were without tents or covering of any kind, this night's experience was wretched in the extreme. Our fuel consisted almost entirely of ox-dung, and during wet weather this is rendered useless, so that a rainy day prevented us from cooking our ration of flour. In fact, in this state of the weather, it was considered an advantage to be on guard

or outpost duty, for then the pacing up and down counted for something, otherwise it meant nothing more than walking fruitlessly up and down the lines. To further add to our misery a strong north-west wind got up about mid-day, and continued until the small hours of the next morning.

On June 8th our communications with Pretoria were interrupted. This caused great inconvenience to our Head Quarters Staff. The 1st Leinsters on this day moved from Senekal to Klip Drift Nek, their move being covered by a reconnaissance from Klip Drift Nek to the north, under Colonel Dalgety (of Wepener fame) with the Cape Mounted Rifles and Yeomanry. Another reconnaissance from Ficksburg revealed the enemy to be holding a strongly intrenched position at Commando Nek. The following day patrols were sent towards Senekal and Ficksburg with orders to distribute notices to farmers warning them to immediately report any damage caused by the enemy to the telegraph line. The 1st Battalion of Leinsters arrived at Hammonia, but our communications with the Head Quarters of the Army in Pretoria were again interrupted for two days.

On June 11th the following moves were effected in order to secure our line of communication with Winburg, and also to support the town which was threatened by the dispositions of the enemy in its vicinity. Two companies of Imperial Yeomanry and one hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division were moved from Hammonia to Trommel, with orders to await the convoy leaving Winburg that day; they were also told off to search all farms in that neighbourhood and ascertain if any of the enemy were in its vicinity. After seeing the convoy safely through Trommel, they returned via Doornhoek to Klip River Farm. A patrol of one hundred

mounted men of the Colonial Division was sent from Klip Drift Farm to Reitfontein, midway between Winburg and Senekal, with a similar object, and at the same time to ascertain the locality and strength of the enemy. The Colonial Division also furnished a strong patrol from Hammonia to Spitzkop in the direction of Witkop, to ascertain if there were any movement of the enemy from Rooikrantz.

On June 12th the following movements of our troops were carried out with the object of opposing any movement of the enemy from the north. The 2nd Scots Guards and three hundred of the Colonials, under Colonel Dalgety, moved from Klip Drift Farm to Laager Spruit, which is about six miles south of the town of Senekal. The Colonial Division, with its Head Quarters, moved from Hammonia to Klip Drift Farm, and the Head Quarters of the Eighth Division with the 1st Leinsters, three companies of Imperial Yeomanry, and one section of Royal Engineers, moved from Hammonia to Klip Drift Nek. Hammonia was garrisoned under the command of General Boyes, by two companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, the Queenstown Volunteers, four guns, the 2nd West Kents, and the South Staffords. Ficksburg was garrisoned by one company of Imperial Yeomanry, a detachment of Kaffrarian Rifles, two guns, and some of the 2nd Manchester Regiment, while Willow Grange was held by a detachment of Kaffrarian Rifles and two companies of the 2nd Manchesters. These dispositions of our force securely held the country extending from Senekal to Ficksburg, approximately a line of forty miles in length.

The following day patrols from the Colonial Division and the Imperial Yeomanry were pushed west and northeast from Klip River Farm and Klip Drift Nek. A

patrol of Middlesex Yeomanry came in contact with the enemy a few miles east of Klip Nek, losing one man killed, Grout, and two wounded, while a patrol from Ficksburg got in touch with a considerable force near Zudkop.

The enemy, too, were in considerable force round the vicinity of a well marked feature, lying two or three miles to the east of the Klip Nek-Hammonia Road. This feature was named "Middlesex Kopje" by the Middlesex Yeomanry, who had occupied this position for a period of several days. It lies about five miles due east of Wonderkop.

This day we were on outpost, and experienced just as miserable a time as it was possible to have. Two biscuits were served out in the morning for the day's ration; these being eaten in the majority of instances at breakfast time, nothing was left for dinner but the skin and bone of the starved veldt sheep. All we had to depend on for the remaining meal was about three-quarters of a pint of the usual sample of tea or coffee. To augment the day's rations, some of us managed either to buy or commandeer a few pumpkins from the nearest farmhouse, while others managed to secure a few handfuls of mealies; the former we boiled, and the latter we roasted as well as we could with the limited amount of fuel at our disposal. To finish up the day we turned in to rest under our blanket and great coat, and solaced ourselves as well as we could with a pipe of dried leaves and ox-dung, for a tobacco famine had existed in the Division for some time past.

When darkness fell we could plainly see the camp fires of the enemy, who I warrant, were having better times than we.

Orders forbade (under extreme penalties) our commandeering food from Boer farms, and yet these provisions which we were compelled to leave untouched, were freely commandeered by parties of the enemy, who called on these "commissariat depôts" whenever their supplies needed replenishing.

Our conscientiousness in respecting the property and food of the Boers is all well and good where one has a chance of getting the plainest necessaries of life, but when men are literally starving, it appears nothing less than criminal on the part of those responsible. That the policy was unjustifiable and our privations unnecessary subsequent events have shown, for ultimately the very farms that we were prevented from visiting for supplies of food, were burned with their contents. Many a Tommy who has been punished for obtaining food during these starvation periods, has foretold the fact that we were leaving these stores of food for the Boers to call for when they required them.

As a matter of fact, throughout this campaign the Dutch have received immeasurably better treatment from the British than from their own burghers, who either commandeer goods outright, or who give them a worthless I.O.U.

Information having been received from several sources that the enemy were contemplating an attack on Ficksburg, the following moves were made on June 14th: The 1st Staffords and two guns of the 2nd Battery from Hammonia to Ficksburg; the 2nd East Yorks and two guns from Klip Drift Nek to Hammonia. The Head Quarters of the Colonial Division moved to Laager Spruit, while one company of Imperial Yeomanry, four companies of the 1st Leinsters and two guns moved from Klip Drift Nek to Klip River Farm. On this day

telegraphic communication with Pretoria was restored. The enemy were constantly on the alert at this period to break through our line; they were occupying the ranges of hills running parallel to the Ficksburg-Senekal line. Ficksburg had recently been threatened but was practically secure from attack through the movement of the troops named. The patrols at Hammonia were continually engaged with the enemy, and the force at Klip Drift Nek was in touch with the main laagers at Rooikrantz and Witkop, the outposts on either side frequently exchanging shots. The object in view was twofold. First, we had to maintain communication with Winburg. This was of vital importance to our getting supplies for the troops. In the second place we had to hold the enemy and prevent his moving either south or south-east.

On June 15th the 2nd Scots Guards and the Colonial Division moved from Laager Spruit to Klip River Farm, and four companies of the Leinsters moved from Klip River Farm to Klip Drift Nek. A large convoy arrived from Winburg with supplies. These were sorely needed, indeed, it was now a regular matter to be on short rations. For perhaps two or three days after the arrival of a convoy we used to receive our full allowance, after which period we invariably reverted to three-quarters, and finally to half rations. Reduced rations of biscuits were bad enough, but flour and water were rendered worse than useless in the absence of fuel. Frequently after a heavy day's march we had quite another little march for the required fuel. An amusing exchange of fat for fuel or vice versa was often witnessed, and the preliminary negotiations required a lot of skill.

Wood or fuel of any kind has been so very scarce in some districts that the men have carried ten or fifteen

pounds' weight of it a distance of eighteen to twenty miles in order to be certain of being able to cook their ration of flour. One had frequently to bake his cake without fat, and the grass had frequently to be fired in the absence of wood or dung, and it required considerable practice to follow the flames with the messtin lid, and at the same time keep the burning grass within manageable limits.

No doubt a good deal of the diarrhœa from which the troops suffered more or less throughout the whole campaign, was traceable to this continued use of flour and water.

On June 16th the following movements of troops were carried out to strengthen and support the Ficksburg position. The Head Quarters of the Eighth Division and the 16th Brigade, eleven guns and eight companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, moved from Klip Drift Nek to Hammonia, and the Colonial Division from Klip River Farm to Klip Drift Nek. The enemy's advanced posts were pushed forward towards our position at Hammonia this day, but were shelled by our artillery, after which they withdrew. We marched out of camp about 4.30 a.m., breakfastless, for we had mortgaged our ration the previous night, and marched back to Hammonia, a distance of about fifteen miles, camping there for the second time, although we occupied a different camping ground from that of our first visit. The ground was very rough and lay just below the base of a huge kopje covered by masses of loose stone. The weather was cloudy and stormy, and shortly after our arrival it began to rain. The huge rocks piled one upon another towered above us, and the face of the mountain was covered with glossy leaved bushes which nestled in the crevices and covered the mouths of its recesses. Cliff

MIDDLESEX KOPJE, JUNE, 1900.

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(See p. 61.)

THE MAXIM IN ACTION, MIDDLESEX KOPJE, JUNE, 1900.

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(See p. 61.)

[illegible] in Action, Middlesex Ridge, June [illegible]

[illegible] of W. [illegible], Esq., Author of [illegible]
[illegible] Company, R.A.V.C.

(See p. [illegible])

In Action, June, 1900.

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(See p. 73.)

MIDDLESEX KOPJE, JUNE, 1900.

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(See p. 61.)

swallows darted and twittered about the hollows, while high over head asvogels sailed in wide circles round and round its summit. The undulating country in front of us was studded with the usual countless ant-hills, and winding along between the ridges of land was a donga, now filled with rain water. The only dwelling visible, save a few Kaffir huts near our camp, was a store about a couple of miles distant. A "store" it may be mentioned is a primitive kind of "general shop" which caters for the wants of those who live within a certain radius, and of such travellers as may happen to pass along the road. The stores as a rule contain all kinds of provisions and wearing apparel in peace times, but during this campaign they have been either heavily commandeered by the Boers or have been bought out by the passing troops, and having no opportunity of replenishing their supplies are generally incapable of supplying anything beyond a little flour or an occasional loaf of bread. The store near our camp differed in no respect from others of its class, and the surplus stock was quickly bought at "Klondyke prices" by the first visitors. It was not the storekeepers who needed protection against the Tommies, but the Tommies who needed protection against the extortion of the traders. The Dutch woman here, who spoke good English, gave us the alarming news that the Russians had invaded England, were in possession of London, and that we should be soon recalled from South Africa to defend our own country.

On June 17th numerous small parties of the enemy were observed moving south with the intention of concentrating near Brand's Drift. Accordingly a force was sent from Ficksburg in the direction of Clocolan and Ladybrand to strengthen that town and Thaban'chu,

MIDDLESEX KOPJE, JUNE, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 61.)

seen to the north-east of Ficksburg. We had a fine view of the Basuto Mountains from the summit of the ranges of Hammonia, and being snow-capped they stood out in surprising clearness. Even on ordinary occasions they may be seen so clearly that all the wealth of their colour and the delicacy of their outline can readily be distinguished.

On the night of June 19th we had a terrific thunderstorm and every article of our clothing was drenched, the reverberation of the peals of thunder from the rocks being followed by vivid flashes of forked lightning from the black clouds above. When the storm passed away growling and muttering it left us in a miserable plight with wet clothing and blankets. The enemy again shelled Ficksburg to-day from their position at Zudkop, and the guns of the garrison returned their fire.

On June 20th a commando of two hundred Boers with waggons had been located at Dornkop, south of the Senekal-Winburg Road, and Colonel Dalgety was dispatched with four hundred mounted men and two guns with the object of surrounding them. On the following day General Rundle left Hammonia at midnight with the 2nd Scots Guards, two guns, three companies of the Imperial Yeomanry and Driscoll's Scouts, for Klip Drift Nek to support Colonel Dalgety. After passing through the Nek and arriving at Klip River Farm we learnt that the commando and waggons had succeeded in withdrawing from their position during the night, and had moved east, passing south of Senekal. Our company was relieved this day from outpost, and before leaving had succeeded in getting clothing and blankets well dried. We were also fortunate in obtaining the rare luxury of potatoes, which we fried in fat obtained from an adjacent

farm and we looked forward to a good night's rest. During the day the camp had been removed from the position at the base of the kopje to positions on the face of it, where the ground was rough yet dry and fairly sheltered. We were doomed however to be disappointed of our night's rest, for about midnight we were roused with orders to pack up and be prepared to move off at once. Some fellows were lucky enough to be out of hearing of this order and therefore enjoyed a good night's rest before they discovered that the troops had moved off. The march was carried out during one of the coldest nights that we had experienced during the campaign. One can usually keep warm when on the march, but on this occasion the cold was so intense and the wind so piercing that we were shivering with cold throughout the march. On our arrival at Klip River Farm the various companies were told off for their respective outpost duties, our company relieving a detachment of the Canadian Mounted Infantry. The Head Quarters of the Division with eight guns and the 2nd Grenadiers moved from Hammonia to Klip Drift Nek, and the following troops were left to garrison the important strategic positions of Ficksburg, Willow Grange, and Hammonia, under the command of General Clements, whose Head Quarters were established at Ficksburg.

Ficksburg Garrison: One company of Imperial Yeomanry, three guns of R.F.A., four companies of the South Staffords, four companies of the West Kents, half of the 22nd Bearer Company, half of the 23rd Field Hospital.

Willow Grange: Fifty Kaffrarian Rifles, one gun of R.F.A., four companies of the South Staffords.

Hammonia: One company of Imperial Yeomanry, three hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division,

the 2nd Manchesters, four companies of the West Kents, half the 22nd Bearer Company, half the 23rd Field Hospital.

All these garrisons were provisioned for a month, and on arrival at the various posts commenced to make such preparations as would render their positions invulnerable to attack. They were based on Basutoland for supplies, and of course took every opportunity of augmenting them from local sources.

By patrolling at uncertain hours they were enabled to maintain the necessary communication between the various extended positions.

The weather continued very trying, a bitterly cold wind blowing throughout the day, and being situated on high ground we felt the full force of it.

Outposts were relieved after darkness had fallen, and had to return to camp over a mile and a half of rocky country. Not the least of our trials was the passage of a spruit in flood. Several got a ducking, one poor fellow went in up to his shoulders, and had on arrival in camp to stand by the cook-house fire to dry his clothes, which by the time we reached camp, were stiff with frost. An unpleasant experience of this kind is one of the many disadvantages of not having a change of clothing.

On June 22nd the Head Quarters of the Division, the 16th Brigade, five companies of Imperial Yeomanry, six guns, the 2nd Grenadiers and the 2nd Scots Guards, moved to Reitpan on the Senekal Road, leaving the following garrison at Klip Drift Nek under the command of Colonel Martin of the Leinster Regiment: One company of Imperial Yeomanry, one hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division, four guns, and the 1st Leinsters.

These troops securely entrenched themselves and kept in touch with Hammonia by means of mounted patrols. The Colonial Division at Klip River Farm moved to

Laager Spruit, six miles to the south of Senekal. The movements of the troops of the Eighth and Colonial Divisions were closely watched by the enemy, who pushed out strong bodies in the direction of our camp at Reitpan ; they were, however, dispersed by the Imperial Yeomanry and retired towards Tafelberg.

The following day, June 23rd, while on the march, we heard heavy firing in the direction of the Senekal-Winburg Road, and subsequently learned that General Clements, whilst escorting a convoy going from Senekal to Winburg for provisions, had engaged and driven back a strong force of the enemy. Just before entering Senekal at Three Mile Spruit, south of Senekal, the rear guard of our column was attacked whilst crossing this spruit. The Boers were occupying, in considerable numbers, a donga about eleven hundred yards from the road ; the Scots Guards, and the Hants Yeomanry under Captain Seely, opened out in skirmishing order and our maxim gun quickly came into action. The enemy, as usual, were not inclined to allow us to come to closer quarters, and on our advance hastily retired to their main position at Tafelberg. They were occupying one of their favourite positions, namely a donga with a range of mountains to the rear of it. At the time of the action there was an extensive veldt fire raging, which doubtless they had lit to enable them to see the movements of our men more easily. We watched them for some time moving along the face of the hills, which were from four to five miles from the road which leads into Senekal. A few of their number were, however, discovered hiding in a farm flying the white flag ; these were captured and their refuge razed to the ground.

After this rear-guard action the Head Quarters of the 16th Brigade moved into Senekal, taking over the

command of that place from the 12th Brigade. The Colonial Division and Imperial Yeomanry at Laager Spruit succeeded in driving back parties of the enemy who had pushed forward towards our camp at that place. On this day also the 2nd East Yorks and two guns marched from Trommel to take up position at Laager Spruit.

On June 25th the 2nd Scots Guards, three guns and one company of Imperial Yeomanry left Senekal for Winburg with empty waggons and escorted a convoy of supplies from that place to Trommel. The Colonial Division marched to Senekal leaving the 2nd East Yorks and two guns entrenched at Laager Spruit. Senekal was handed over to General Brabant, and the Head Quarters of the Eighth Division, the 16th Brigade, four companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, three guns, and the 2nd Grenadiers marched to Rietfontein on the Trommel Road.

On June 25th a sharp action was fought outside Ficksburg, in which the 1st South Staffords sustained the loss of two officers killed (Captain Grogan and Lieut. Brancker), a sergeant and three men wounded.

On June 26th we were up at 5 a.m. and marched off at 6 in the direction of Winburg. After covering about ten miles we met the troops of the Sixth Division going towards Senekal with a convoy, and having with them two five-inch guns,—better known among the troops as cow-guns. After halting for dinner we set off again on a further eight miles' march, finally reaching our camping ground just before sunset. The character of the country over which we had travelled was generally flat and monotonous, and afforded nothing really worthy of note. The troops present with Divisional Head Quarters marched from Reitfontein to Trommel. While we were

on the march news came to hand that Lieut.-Colonel Grenfell, with about seven hundred mounted men, and who had been placed temporarily under General Clements' orders, while moving with two guns from Senekal in a north-westerly direction, had been engaged by the enemy at Lilliefontein. Finding himself in a difficult position and the opposing force strong, Colonel Grenfell requested help from General Brabant, who at once proceeded with six hundred men and seven guns to his support; he out-flanked and engaged the enemy, who ultimately retired in the direction of Lindley. Our casualties were three killed and about twenty-three wounded.

Trooper T. A. Sadd, of the 35th Company of Imperial Yeomanry, says in connection with the above action:—

"We arrived at Senekal on June 24th from Hammonia and joined General Clements' Flying Column, which had been formed at Senekal. The column consisted of seven hundred of the Colonial Division under Colonel Grenfell, together with the Staffordshire and 35th Middlesex Companies of Imperial Yeomanry, under the respective commands of Captain Bromley Davenport and Captain F. B. Mildmay.

"We were to have had several days' rest whilst awaiting supplies from Winburg, but on the second day received orders to saddle up at 6.30 p.m. for a night march.

"General Clements had been out with a column to bring in a large convoy from Winburg. Reliable information had been received from native and Dutch sources, to the effect that the Boers intended to attack the convoy at dawn the next day. The Boer laager was on the end of a chain of hills at a point which could be dominated from a position upon another chain of hills

in their rear. Hence our night march, which was to bring us at the spur some hours before daylight.

"Having gained this position we should then be in a position to attack the laager and take it. It was calculated that our assault would be delivered during the absence of the main body of the enemy, who would have left to attack our convoy. Having captured their laager we should then be in a position to fall upon the rear of the other Boers as they attacked our convoy.

"We had a Dutch as well as a native guide with us. The whole success of the scheme depended upon our reaching this dominating position at the rear of the laager in the night. It was pitch dark and very cold, the road a very rough one, and as we progressed very slowly, it seemed interminable. To our great satisfaction we reached our objective at midnight, without, as we imagined, having aroused any Boer suspicion. Having ringed our horses, we lay down at the base of a small kopje and slept.

"We were, however, suddenly alarmed at dawn by a solitary shot. This report was the signal for the enemy to open a terrific rifle and artillery fire on us from a ridge about eighteen hundred yards away. It was evident that our movements of the previous night had been closely watched by the Boers, and that during our brief rest they had been busy bringing their five guns into position. These consisted of two maxims, a pom-pom and two Krupp nine pounders. When the Boers commenced their attack, orders had just been given us to unring our horses, but with the noise of artillery and rifle fire, no little difficulty was experienced in getting the horses under proper control.

Colonel Grenfell, however, had at once grasped the situation, and definite orders were immediately dis-

patched by him, instructing us to move independently over a crest of high ground, and under that cover to form up and line the rocks until reinforcements reached us.

"Meanwhile the Boers had managed to bring a gun round our flank, the fire of which caused a lot of casualties amongst the horses; but although our gun horses were rapidly shot down, the gunners stuck to their guns and sharply answered the enemy's fire.

"The situation, however, became critical, for we could see the Boers pressing up on each flank and even threatening our rear. Every artilleryman at the guns but one was wounded, and volunteers from the Cape Mounted Rifles were called on to work the guns. One of the Colonial officers called two of his men and myself, and we were sent after a party of our men with orders for them to occupy a ridge to our rear. On our return we saw about a dozen dismounted men standing just below the ridge on which our guns were mounted; concluding that they were some of our own men, we rode within three hundred yards of them, for in the dim early morning we could not make out exactly who they were.

"When, however, they began waving their hats, our suspicion was aroused, and I had a look at them through my field glasses. With very little difficulty I recognised them as Boers and we therefore turned round immediately and made for a small donga. We were followed by a volley, and my comrade on the left was shot dead. My other comrade was lucky enough to get clear away, but another shot brought my horse to his knees and I was thrown over his head. By the time I regained my feet four of the enemy were up to me, and after disarming me, I was then put on a spare horse, without saddle, and taken for about eight miles at a rapid canter,

for by this time a large force under General Brabant had come to our relief, and the enemy were clearing as hard as they could go. They, however, stopped once behind a small ridge to fire three rounds from their pom-pom to check the Cape Mounted Rifles, who were pressing them very closely. I was taken to a laager where I met a Dutch predikant known as the "Fighting Parson"; my watch and flask were taken from me, but these were afterwards returned by order of the commandant. In this laager I had my first meal with the Boers. It consisted of a piece of meat which I was instructed to fasten to the end of a length of wire and hold in the fire until cooked—frying pans were evidently deemed unnecessary. I was also given a chupattee or cake of flour and water fried in fat—these were given me by the man (a Frenchman) who had charge of their pom-pom. He stated to me that he had joined the Boers out of sympathy for their cause. This night I was taken to a big laager behind Biddulphsberg, arriving there about midnight; here I met a very interesting individual in the person of Captain L. C. V. Andersen, a Danish officer, who was in the O.V.S. Artillerie and who had just recovered from a shell wound in his leg. He told me that he was anxious to get through to the Transvaal but had been unable to do so. While in the field he had made a splendid collection of photos and sketches taken from the Boer side of the war. I copied out distinctly for him the name and address of an English officer's wife to whom he had promised to send her dying husband's pocket book. I have often wondered whether this lady ever received it, for no doubt under the circumstances it would be highly prized by her. Captain Andersen, whose photograph we reproduce, was subsequently taken prisoner in the great Boer surrender at Slapkrantz on July 28th, 1900. I was

joined here by three other prisoners, one of whom, a German, belonged to Brabant's Horse. He was in a worse plight than I in the matter of clothing, for in addition to being without great coat or blanket, he was minus a tunic. The clothing stock of the Boers seemed to be extremely limited, for they were unable to give us more than a few dirty sacks. The weather, too, at this period was bitterly cold at night, and correspondingly hot during the day, a range of temperature which we found very trying.

"One morning I had the opportunity of hearing Ex-President Steyn make a speech to the burghers; my fellow prisoner, the German, understood Dutch, although for obvious reasons he did not let the Boers know it.

"The Ex-President's speech was to this effect: that President Kruger and he were no longer friends, and that the Free State would in the future have to fight by itself. He further stated that he had come across papers, from the President to some of his generals, telling them to put the Free Staters in the front; this, he said, was the cause of the rupture between them. Before making this speech a kind of procession was formed, headed by a burgher carrying a large Free State flag, then came the Ex-President with a small bodyguard, followed by his commandants, some ladies and a minister.

"The procession formed up in a large horse-shoe formation, after which the Ex-President commenced the tedious process of shaking hands with each one in turn.

"Then followed the speech which was in turn followed by singing and prayer, the latter being conducted by the Dutch minister. We stayed here four days, and had an excellent opportunity of studying the camp life of the Boers. These were of all sorts and conditions and of various ages, old, young and middle-aged, some being

mere boys of sixteen or seventeen years of age. When night falls they invariably congregate round the waggons and sing hymns, each group having its favourite hymn, the net result being a babel of noise.

"We were afterwards taken to Bethlehem and lodged in the Court House of the town, where we stayed three days, after which we went about eighteen miles in the direction of Fouriesburg.

Here we were joined by about fifty more prisoners, amongst whom were the officers of the Derby Militia, Captain Knight, Captain Grant of the R.E., a Canadian officer, Major Jenkinson of the Yorks I.Y., and Sergt.-Major Searle (afterwards Lieut. Searle). The last-mentioned managed to escape shortly after his arrival amongst us. This officer has had the unique experience of being taken prisoner three times and of escaping each time.

"As we left Bethlehem the Boers were passing through in hundreds towards the hills, and whilst here a Council of War took place. Amongst those attending it were the two De Wets, Prinsloo, Olivier and several other well known Boer leaders.

The following day we pushed on through Slabbert's Nek and camped two days in a hollow. We had with us a Colonial who had been fighting with the Boers, but who had afterwards joined our Intelligence Department, being subsequently taken prisoner by the Boers; they did not intend to lose this unfortunate individual, for he was chained to the waggon wheel at night. However, on this occasion they omitted to do so, with the result that he was found to be missing the following morning.

"Shortly after this escape Captain Knight and two more officers followed suit, making their way through the Boer lines to General Hunter's Column. Encouraged

by their success, I, in company with two others, made our escape across the Basuto Border, joining the Eighth Division at Commando Nek. At Fouriesburg I was able to rejoin my company, and had the satisfaction, three days' later, of seeing a lot of our late friends—including Captain Andersen—at Prinsloo's surrender."

On June 29th the troops with the Divisional Head Quarters remained at Trommel, and parties of men were sent out into the surrounding country with the object of collecting supplies and waggons. The following notice, issued by the Lieut.-General, was distributed to places visited by forage parties :—

NOTICE.

It having come to my knowledge that small armed parties of ex-burghers of the late Orange Free State are in the habit of patrolling the country, hiding in the hills by day and at night taking shelter in farms, farm buildings, outhouses, etc., within the sphere of my military operations,

Now therefore I, Henry Macleod Leslie Rundle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Lt.-General Commanding Her Majesty's Forces, Winburg, Senekal, Ficksburg Districts, do hereby call upon and order all residents on such farms to discontinue the practice of harbouring such ex-burghers, and in all cases to give information as to the whereabouts of any armed ex-burghers in the vicinity of their farms or neighbourhood to some officer of the Force under my command.

Furthermore, I give notice that by the non-compliance with this order residents on farms render themselves liable to the following punishments, viz. :

(1) Confiscation of their farms.

(2) The cancelling of all receipts for goods requisitioned on behalf of the Military Authorities, and no payment whatsoever will be made in respect of the same.

(3) A fine, which will in no event be less than a sum of 2s. 6d. per morgen on the area of each farm.

(Signed) LESLIE RUNDLE, Lieut.-General,
Commanding Her Majesty's Forces, Winburg,
Senekal, Ficksburg Districts.

Trommel, 30th June, 1900.

Preparations were now begun to stock Senekal with supplies in anticipation of the projected advance of the Eighth Division towards Bethlehem. The Colonial Division moved out from Senekal early this morning for the purpose of making a demonstration against Biddulphsberg and Tafelberg on the right rear of Clements' Flying Column. The latter, in moving on Lindley, had been impeded by the enemy, who had been hanging on the flanks of the column on their march from Senekal. The column going to Winburg arrived at that town in the afternoon of the 27th, and awaited the loading of the waggons for the return journey.

During our stay in Winburg we had some comforts served out, including shirts, socks, etc., and provisions were bought galore by the troops, who besieged the stores.

The following are some typical prices :—

Jam, 1s. 3d. per tin.
Tea, 6d. per cup (without milk).
Condensed milk, 1s. 3d. per tin.
Golden syrup, 1s. 6d. per tin.
Bread was 1s. per loaf, sugar 1s. per lb.

Winburg is the oldest town in the Orange River Colony, and stands in the midst of a prosperous sheep and cattle district. Moreover, it is the terminus of a branch line about thirty miles from the main line at Smaldeel, and has figured prominently during the campaign, for the town has served as a sort of entrepôt for the distribution of provisions, clothes and munitions of war, arriving from Cape Town by rail, these being afterwards conveyed by bullock-waggon to the troops operating in the eastern part of the Orange River Colony.

On June 30th a patrol was sent to Dornberg and returned to Trommel, bringing information that the former place was still strongly held by the enemy.

The troops, with the Divisional Head Quarters, halted at Trommel, telegraphic communication between Senekal and Winburg still remaining interrupted.

Briefly stated the military situation at the end of the month was: The Division formed a chain of strongly entrenched positions at Ladybrand and Thaban'chu. Heliographic communication was established throughout the chain of posts between Senekal and Winburg, thus rendering the Division independent of the Senekal-Ficksburg telegraph line which had from time to time been tampered with by the enemy. The troops on the Senekal-Ficksburg line had been in constant touch with the enemy directly opposed, who were occupying a range of mountains extending from Ficksburg to Zuringkranz, east of Senekal, their movements being ascertained by our patrols, which operated daily to our front at irregular times and who maintained communication between the various posts. All concentrations of the enemy threatening our positions were met from time to time by corresponding movements of our troops, and by strong reconnaissances.

The weather throughout the month had been extremely cold, though the days were very warm.

On June 7th a strong north-west wind got up about noon ; it was followed by a heavy thunderstorm, and a continuous fall of rain for three successive days.

On the 16th, 17th and 19th, we had rain and cold weather, although the remaining portion of the month was dry.

The camping ground at Senekal was poor, owing to its distance from water, which had to be conveyed with difficulty up the steep hill overlooking the town ; the quality of the water was, however, good.

At Hammonia the camp was situated on rising ground on the south side of a small stream, which was dammed close to the road, and was utilised in working a flour mill. The water supply being good and abundant, we enjoyed the rare luxury of bathing.

The camp at Klip Drift Nek lay between two ranges of hills, the Head Quarter camp being situated on the rising ground to the west of the Nek, while the troops encamped on the eastern slopes. The situation of this camp was excellent, for the hills on the north and west sheltered it from the prevailing north-westerly winds, while in the valley below ran a stream which supplied abundant water.

The camp at Reitpan was very poorly situated in low-lying ground, and the water supply was meagre and of very indifferent quality.

Considering the great variations of temperature, together with the exposure of the troops, their health seemed generally good, although a heavy sick parade might be seen each day, the prevailing causes being rheumatism, dysentery, enteric and influenza.

CHAPTER V.

Regimental Pets—Mails and News—We co-operate with Generals Hunter, Bruce Hamilton, Clements, MacDonald and Paget—Driving Prinsloo's Army into the Brandwater Basin—Christian De Wet escapes through Slabbert's Nek—Dash on Fouriesburg—British Prisoners Released — Slaapkranz Taken — Unconditional Surrender of Prinsloo's Army.

On the 1st of July the 2nd East Yorks and two guns moved from Laager Spruit to Senekal. On this day also we brought a convoy of about eighty waggons with supplies for the troops, and encamped with it at Spitz Kop Nek, six miles north of Trommel Farm. In addition to food supplies we brought a limited number of tents per infantry battalion and one extra blanket per man, necessaries which, with the bitterly cold nights we were having, were sorely needed by the troops.

During our march from Winburg we saw several of the blue wildebeest or gnu, an animal which in the distance seemed half horse and half buffalo. Herds of springbok were seen, and numbers of the familiar veldt hares were frequently disturbed by the column and chased by dogs, though seldom caught.

It is a remarkable fact that dogs throughout the campaign have shown a strong fancy for troops on the march, leaving their owners in the towns and farms and joining the columns. They certainly did not join us because of any food thrown away ; so numerous were they at one period that many had to be destroyed.

Many animals have been made pets of by the various regiments. The 2nd Grenadiers had a pet goat for a

long time, which followed them for miles over the veldt. An illustration shows one of these pets, "Jack," a prettily marked fox terrier, with his master, Private R. Lauchlan, of P Company 2nd Scots Guards. Jack was presented to us by a trooper of the Hussars at Port Elizabeth in April, 1900; he was then only a puppy six weeks old. During his puppy days he was carried by various men of the company until he was strong enough to keep up with the battalion. He was present at the Battle of Biddulphsberg, and whilst advancing with the battalion was severely burned by the blazing veldt; his burns were carefully treated, and ultimately he recovered from his injuries. Jack knows perfectly well that the Eighth Division has been very indifferently fed, for he also has shared our hardships and privations, having experienced, like ourselves, many heavy marches on light rations. He has learned also the art of taking whatever shelter offers when the troops advance in attack order, and well knows the sound of the Mauser bullet when it passes unpleasantly near. After a heavy day's march he patiently waits until his master makes down his bed on the veldt, and then he creeps into some snug place to enjoy the rest he thinks he has so well deserved.

"Mick," a black and white dog, belonging to the 36th Kent Yeomanry, has, like his comrade "Jack," been often under fire, and was a well-known and favoured camp-follower. He returned to England, and enjoys a comfortable home with Captain Bertram Pott, who commanded the Company.

Letters, papers and parcels, the accumulation of several weeks' mails, were brought from Winburg with the convoy previously mentioned; these were always eagerly received by the troops, for during the monotonous campaigning life on the lonely veldt, reading matter

was extremely scarce, and to get letters from home seemed like getting news from the dead, so isolated was our position from the world of home life.

The bulky, canvas mail bags are speedily opened and their contents sorted into companies ; then follows the distribution, by the orderly sergeant, to the various men of his company, every one being eagerly on the alert to hear his name, and receive the long-looked for letter from some dear one far away in the old country. The contents of the letters form the subject of conversation for many an hour after, for each recipient can supply some item of general interest, and thus many of the weary hours are passed away. For a time at least, South Africa is forgotten, and hundreds of men live once more in the far-off home. The discussions in progress give ample proof of this. But there is an end to all things, and so presently the Sergeant-in-Waiting's cry of " men going sick " brings them back to the dreary brown winter veldt and its lowing trek oxen.

On July 2nd the Head Quarters of the Colonial Division, with their remaining troops and seven guns, moved to Karreebank on the Senekal-Winburg Road, leaving about one hundred mounted men with the Senekal garrison. Parties of men were sent to all farms in the vicinity to gather supplies, including stock and waggons, and a temporary supply store was formed in an empty farmhouse near the camp.

On the following day, July 3rd, a convoy left Trommel for Winburg under the escort of a company of Imperial Yeomanry, two guns, and four companies of the Grenadier Guards.

On July 4th, the Head Quarters of the Division and the 16th Brigade, with four companies of Imperial *Yeomanry*, two guns, three companies of Grenadier

Guards and the 2nd Scots Guards, moved from Trommel to Reit Spruit, which is about five miles south of Senekal. The Colonial Division moved to Myer's Kraal five miles north of Karreebank, with the object of dislodging a small force of the enemy who were still occupying Dornberg; this force acted in co-operation with a flying column under Colonel Hickman, who had been dispatched from Kroonstad to clear the country lying to the west of the Lindley-Senekal Road.

On July 6th, the enemy having vacated Dornberg and retired on Bethlehem, the Colonial Division moved to Driefontein, ten miles north-west of Senekal.

On July 7th, a convoy left for Senekal for supplies, escorted by one company of Imperial Yeomanry, two guns, and four companies of the 2nd Scots Guards, the escort returning to the Divisional Head Quarters at Reit Spruit.

Colonel Dalgety now assumed the command of the Colonial Division, owing to General Brabant leaving to resume his parliamentary duties.

On the following day the Divisional Head Quarters and Driscoll's Scouts moved to Senekal. Half a battalion and two guns moved from Winburg to Reit Spruit, with the object of seizing that strategic point, which they securely entrenched. These movements of our Division were made in conjunction with a concerted move organised by the Commander-in-Chief, whose object was to clear up a large portion of the Orange River Colony over-run by the Free State burghers, comprising the commandos of Harrismith, Senekal, and Ficksburg, under De Wet and Olivier. They numbered fully eight thousand and were continually threatening isolated detachments scattered throughout the State, as well as doing incalculable damage to the railway, culverts, and bridges.

Approximately the positions of the various troops taking part in this combined movement were as follows: Our Division and the Colonials were operating together from the south, while General Clements' troops were on our left. General Paget was slowly advancing from Lindley, and Macdonald's Brigade from Heilbron, while General Archibald Hunter was bringing a formidable column from the north, the whole operations being under the personal command of the last-mentioned general.

On July 9th the Head Quarters of the 16th Brigade, with the following troops under General Campbell, marched from Reit Spruit to Senekal and camped about one and a half miles north of the town on the Lindley Road: three companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, Mounted Infantry Company of the 2nd Manchesters, six guns R.F.A., four companies of the 2nd Grenadier Guards, the 2nd Scots Guards, one section of Engineers, half the 21st Bearer Company, and half the 21st Field Hospital. A reconnaissance was pushed to Biddulphsberg, but it was found to be unoccupied by the enemy. The movement was to effect a junction with General Clements' force.

On July 10th, the Head Quarters of the Eighth Division, Driscoll's Scouts and four hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division moved to the south-east of Biddulphsberg, but left Senekal garrisoned by a force of about fifty or sixty Colonials, together with the 2nd East Yorks and a couple of guns. Major-General Campbell's force and the remainder of the Colonials moved from the Senekal-Lindley Road position to a camp on the northern face of Biddulphsberg, the site of the Boer position in the engagement of the 29th of May, 1900.

While these movements were taking place, General Clements was moving to open the road between

Bethlehem and Senekal, causing the enemy to move south of the Bethlehem-Senekal line, while all the passes in the hills were being eagerly watched by them. Every effort was now being made to keep intact the extensive line held by our Division and the Colonials, which now reached across the country from Winburg, passing through Trommel to Ficksburg. The whole success of the operations was dependent on our keeping the enemy from moving south of that line, so that a continuation of marching and counter-marching was the feature of our work, and occurred with monotonous frequency.

While we were holding this long line, General Hunter with a force approximating to ten thousand men, including General Macdonald's Highland Brigade, was rapidly driving the enemy towards the Basutoland border, the troops of our Division and those of the Colonial Division effectually barring their escape to the south.

The net which was to enclose Prinsloo's Army was being drawn more tightly, when just in the nick of time to save himself from a similar fate to that of Prinsloo, De Wet, with about sixteen hundred men slipped through Slabbert's Nek, one of the few passes in the Wittebergen Range. His escape caused us endless trouble, for no sooner had he shaken himself clear of the enclosing British Forces, than he commenced to work havoc with the railway and to pounce down on detachments of troops holding isolated posts.

Preparations were now being made for our holding all passes offering a means of escape to Prinsloo, and at the same time to have sufficient mobile columns ready at a moment's notice to push the enemy back from any approach to our positions.

On July 11th, General Campbell's force and the Colonial Division marched to Witkop with the Head

Quarters of the Division. It was found to be held, but the enemy retired on being shelled by our artillery. On this day we sent supplies to the Twelfth Brigade under General Clements, who were encamped at Biddulphsberg. In the evening we witnessed an enormous veldt fire, which covered an extensive stretch of country, and being on outpost duty we had orders to alarm the troops in case the wind set in towards the camp.

On July 12th a strong patrol of the Colonial Division under Colonel Maxwell, reconnoitred towards Wit Nek, which was held by the enemy. The troops under General Campbell moved to the north-east of Witkop, leaving one company of the Imperial Yeomanry, six guns, and the Mounted Infantry Company of the 2nd Manchesters to hold the western spur of the mountain. We were up this day at 3 a.m. and returned from outpost duty to our camp. After a hasty breakfast we marched off at 6, continuing our march until noon, when we halted near a large camp, where we saw the Royal Irish Regiment. Although there appeared every facility for preparing our dinner, and despite a couple of hours' halt, we were marched off dinnerless. On our march we met Clements' troops, who had had a running fight from Bethlehem.

At about 5 p.m. we again halted, expecting to camp for the night, but once more received orders to move off. After doing about another three miles we again halted, and were preparing to pitch tents, when again we got orders to proceed, and after a circuitous march we got into camp at 7 p.m., ultimately sitting down to dinner at 9 p.m., followed by tea at 10 p.m.

Our march, which was one of the severest of the campaign, had begun and finished by moonlight. In the camp was a gun pit, used only the previous day by the enemy.

We were fortunate enough to secure a quantity of flour from a neighbouring farm, which had been deserted owing to our approach.

On July 13th the Colonial Division pushed a reconnaissance to within two thousand yards of Wit Nek, and occupied a position opposite the Nek. Major Cavendish, with three companies of Imperial Yeomanry, reconnoitred to the south, passing to the west of Rooikranz, where they were fired on by the enemy, who apparently were in considerable strength. The Klip Drift Nek garrison was pushed inwards towards Rooikranz. The following force from the Senekal garrison moved to Biddulphsberg with supplies and ammunition for a month, and securely intrenched themselves against any probable attack: Thirty mounted Colonials, one gun R.F.A., three companies of the 2nd East Yorks. The country—a replica of Switzerland—now forming the scene of our operations, was very difficult and precipitous, the physical features rendering the transit of waggons impossible. The scenery from this point is worthy of note, for looking towards Basutoland the panorama of mountains stretching before us is splendid. The Maluti Mountains run parallel to the Drakensbergs through Basutoland, and in the distance look like immense seas of blue mountain peaks. In the morning and evening hours the air is especially dry and clear; then the outlines of the mountains and craggy prominences with their depressions are so distinctly perceived that one forms a very erroneous idea of their distance. At a later period we have often gazed on these mountains from Harrismith, and, especially in the early mornings, have admired the indescribable beauty of the landscape.

We remained near Witkop, near a couple of farms at the base of a kop.

When the General and his escort arrived, they were fired on from the farms, which were flying the usual white flag, and consequently the law dealing with looting was not rigidly adhered to. Oranges, lemons and tangerines grew in fair abundance, and poultry seemed plentiful. The women of the farms were busy clearing the furniture out, as the edict had gone forth that the houses were to be burned. Tommy loves to commandeer when he gets the opportunity ; he is very partial to a hen, or a duck, or a sucking pig. He maintains that pianos make splendid firewood, and he can dismantle a house with regimental promptness. That day a few Tommies commandeered some articles from a Dutch vrouw. The lady asked for a receipt, which was soon written, and read as follows :—" We have got six fowls, for which we thank you." No signature.

On July 14th our advanced posts opposite Wit Nek were fired on throughout the day by parties of the enemy occupying positions in front of the Nek. News also came to hand this day that the enemy were concentrating in considerable force on Commando Nek, with the object of threatening Ficksburg and then pushing south ; this movement of the Boers was followed by the strengthening of the Ficksburg and Nels Poort line. The garrisons along the line Clocolan, Hammonia and Ficksburg were also strengthened to prevent any attempt of the burghers to break south.

In the meantime the columns from the north were rapidly closing on the enemy's rear.

A number of artillery remounts arrived at Wit Kop in excellent condition, and were a striking contrast to the poor wretched creatures which had suffered so much from want of sufficient food, cold and exposure. Indeed, during this campaign the sufferings of the cattle and

horses have been almost incredible ; on the line of march the carcases of scores of bullocks and horses lay putrefying in the sun ; it is really painful to see horses fall, after staggering, with sheer weakness and exhaustion. After several attempts to rise, a bullet in the head puts a merciful end to their suffering. So great was the loss among the horses that they had to be supplemented by oxen for draught in the ammunition waggons.

On this day, too, a convoy arrived from Senekal with supplies.

The following day the Head Quarters of the Eighth Division moved to Rooikranz with the following troops : Three companies of Imperial Yeomanry, the Mounted Infantry Company of the 2nd Manchesters, two guns R.F.A., four companies of Scots Guards, 700 mounted men of the Colonial Division, and six guns (under Col. Dalgety), Driscoll's Scouts, and a force of about 400 mounted men (under Colonel Grenfell), with the 21st Bearer Company.

At the Witkop-Wit Nek positions the following troops were left, under General Campbell : Two companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, four guns R.F.A. 2nd Grenadier Guards, half a battalion of the 2nd Scots Guards, 700 dismounted men of the Colonial Division, and half the 21st Field Hospital

On our advanced guard nearing Rooikranz it was found that the two hills at Bezuidenhouts Kraal were occupied by the enemy, who opened on us with rifle fire. They were, however, dislodged, and retired on Nel's Poort, east of Rooikranz ; we then advanced to the west of Rooikranz, which was strongly held by the enemy, and shelled their positions. Unfortunately, however, while a squadron of Grenfell's Colonials were making a dismounted turning movement, a number of their horses

stampeded towards the Boer Laager, and were lost. Towards the latter part of the afternoon about a thousand of the enemy were observed advancing through Nel's Poort towards Rooikranz and leading their horses down a bridle path in the mountain range. They had a large number of pack horses with them, and appeared to have bivouacked east of Rooikranz. To-day our casualties were two killed and four wounded. We finished the day's work by having our dinner and tea in the dark.

On July 16th, the Imperial Yeomanry and Driscoll's Scouts reconnoitred to the south of Rooikranz. The force under Colonel Martin took up a position about three miles west of Rooikranz. General Campbell drove back a force of the enemy with two Krupp guns, under Commandant Haas-Brook, who attempted to conduct a convoy into Wit Nek from the north-east, and thus effect a junction with De Villiers' force.

During the day a guide gave information to our Intelligence Officer of a man who was shot by Boers whilst on reconnaissance on the 13th inst. On his body being exhumed, he was found to have been shot through the head, and a pocket book was found on him by which he was identified. He came from Ryde, Isle of Wight, and proved to be a Hants Yeoman,* who had proceeded under the command of Major Cavendish (Intelligence Officer) on a reconnaissance to the south of Rooikranz. The deceased's company (the 41st) was under the command of Captain J. B. Seely, M.P., and formed the advance guard. The deceased was on the extreme left of the left flanking company, and apparently had got out of touch. The enemy seeing him isolated sent two of their number to take him prisoner. According to the accounts of two Boer prisoners who subsequently fell into our hands, the deceased resisted, with the result that

* G. H. Keenan.

he was shot through the head. Some Kaffirs, however, who witnessed the incident, said that he was treacherously shot.

It was usual each morning, in camp, or on outpost, for all troops to stand to arms until daybreak. This was of course necessary in order to prevent a surprise, for the enemy throughout the campaign have been in the habit of making attacks on unwary troops just at dawn. At any rate I do not think that the Boers ever had the opportunity of taking the troops of the Eighth Division by surprise, for throughout our operations we always had to turn out in the small hours of the morning with rifle and full complement of ammunition ; this practice was attended with benumbed hands and feet, to say nothing of the loss of rest and sleep—necessaries almost as scarce as full rations.

It is while thus standing to arms and gazing on the charred deserts under the crests of stern kopjes, that one seems to realise a sense of the solitude of these vast and barren wastes which seem to separate us from all the busy haunts of life.

On July 17th, Colonel Dalgety with seven hundred mounted men of the Colonial Division and six guns, moved south of Colonel Martin's position at Rooikranz West and encamped.

Captain Knight passed through our camp on his way to Bethlehem. He had escaped from the Brandwater Basin, having come through Basutoland and Ficksburg, and was able to supply valuable geographical information of the country in which we were operating.

The country south of Rooikranz was again reconnoitred by the Imperial Yeomanry and Driscoll's Scouts, supported by two guns of the R.F.A. During the reconnaissance they came in contact with the enemy at

long range rifle fire and were able to bring successfully the two guns into action. Our casualties this day were one killed and three wounded, in addition to General Rundle's horse being shot under him.

On the following day—July 18th—General Clements relieved the troops of the Eighth Division at the Witkop-Wit Nek position.

July 19th, General Campbell's force after being relieved moved to Rooikranz North with : two companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, four guns of the R.F.A., one section of No. 5 Company R.E., 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, seven hundred dismounted men of the Colonial Division, 21st Field Hospital and the Supply Column.

Lieutenant-Colonel Grenfell's force rejoined General Clements, and an empty convoy was sent to Senekal for supplies, escorted by Imperial Yeomanry and Mounted Colonials, with one gun; they proceeded via Witkop and Biddulphsberg.

The following movements of troops were made on July 20th :

From Rooikranz North to Hammonia ; Head Quarters of the Eighth Division : Three companies of Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, Mounted Infantry Company of 2nd Manchesters, four guns of the R.F.A., two guns of the Cape Artillery, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards.

From Rooikranz West to Hammonia : Half a company of Imperial Yeomanry, about thirty Mounted Colonials, three guns of the R.F.A., and the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment.

We were up this day at 4 a.m. and stood to arms until daybreak ; after breakfasting on reduced rations, we marched at 7.30 a.m., and halted at 11.30 for two hours. We resumed our march and arrived at Hammonia for the third time at 7.30 p.m., thoroughly tired out, for we had

marched across a very rough country, over rocky ridges, across dongas, and then had to wade through a marshy tract of country, ultimately encamping in a ploughed field.

On July 21st the Border Horse and two guns of the Cape Artillery from Hammonia, with fifty Kaffrarian Rifles from Ficksburg, rejoined the Head Quarters of the Colonial Division at Rooikranz West.

Our net round Prinsloo's Army was now being rapidly tightened, and every pass and strategic position was carefully watched; events were surely hastening to the end, for the enemy's position was becoming hopeless in the extreme.

On July 22nd the Head Quarters of the Eighth Division and the following troops moved to Willow Grange, four miles north of Ficksburg, and camped there: Four companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, four guns of the R.F.A., one section of No. 5 Company R.E., 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment.

Three companies of the 1st South Staffords from the Willow Grange garrison were pushed forward to the edge of the Willow Plateau towards July's Kraal.

On this day we left camp at 8 a.m. and reached Willow Grange about noon. It being Sunday, we had Divine Service in the afternoon. Towards evening rain began to fall and continued throughout the night. We were evidently in for something out of the usual, for rations were issued over night, the meat being boiled and served out for the following day.

On July 23rd the troops at Willow Grange moved out and drove the enemy back to July's Kraal and Zud Kop. On the left, Colonel Main, R.E., advanced from Hammonia with two companies of the 2nd Royal West

Kents, two companies of the 2nd Manchesters Mounted Infantry, one company 2nd Manchesters, the Queenstown Volunteers and one gun of the R.F.A. This force attacked and drove the enemy towards Commando Nek. A column was also detached from the Ficksburg garrison consisting of two companies of the West Kents, two companies of the South Staffords, with two guns of the R.F.A., and advanced against Zud Kop, gaining a position about 1,200 yards from that hill. The enemy's position was bombarded continuously during the day by the three columns, the enemy replying with artillery and long range rifle fire. The Imperial Yeomanry of General Rundle's force, supported by the 2nd Scots Guards, made a flanking movement to the right against July's Kraal, which was found to be held in considerable strength. The troops entrenched and bivouacked at dusk on the ground won. The casualties were one killed and six wounded, among the latter being Lieutenant Clay of the 4th Batt. Imperial Yeomanry. The garrisons at Rooikranz, north and west, bombarded the enemy's position on Rooikranz throughout the day, using also long range rifle fire.

We marched this day from camp shortly before daybreak, taking with us, as previously explained, our day's rations. After about an hour's march we arrived near a succession of high rocky ridges, from the crest of which we had a capital view of the Boer positions in the valley below. The enemy had two well marked positions which from their striking resemblance to a pulpit and a pudding, were respectively called "Pulpit and Pudding Rocks." These positions were continuously shelled throughout the day by our artillery, which was occupying commanding positions on high ridges overlooking the valley below. The Boer guns answered somewhat feebly and the majority of their shells fell short of the mark. About

midday the infantry began to move down the steep rocky slopes and over the undulating ridges in the valley, taking up suitable positions around the Boer stronghold.

Throughout the day's operations we could hear the boom of the guns of the other British enclosing forces, who were evidently working in concert. Soon our turn came, and we cautiously descended into the depression below, moving through a well-wooded farm, and taking shelter from time to time behind the stone walls surrounding it. We advanced towards Pudding Rock, and wading a river up to our knees, we lay behind a low ridge facing the Boer position.

In accordance with orders we opened fire on the kopje at the long range of 1,700 yards, searching the wall which ran up the slopes of the mountain, as well as other likely places on its slopes. We had a good view of our artillery fire and indeed could see the shrapnel burst over the enemy's trenches. Ultimately darkness put an end to the day's operations and we returned to camp, finding our way with some difficulty, for it had been moved during our absence by the officers' servants and the camp guard. A strong, cold wind had been blowing all day from the snow-capped Maluti Mountains, which stood out so prominently as a background to the scenery before us.

On July 24th, Colonel Main's Column advanced towards Commando Nek, long range rifle fire being kept up on both sides during the day. The enemy shelled our camp in the morning. Matters were now entering on the last stage of the operations, for Retief's and Slabbert's Neks had already been seized by our troops, and General Hunter was already in the Brandwater Basin, moving south and compelling the enemy to retire

on Fouriesburg. Generals Macdonald and Bruce Hamilton were also securely blocking Naauwpoort Nek and Golden Gate.

A reconnaissance on July 25th revealed the fact that July's Kraal and Zud Kop had been vacated by the enemy.

Commando Nek being occupied by our troops, the following forces moved through the Nek to a farm three miles east of it: Four companies of Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, six guns of the R.F.A., 2nd Scots Guards, 1st Leinsters.

The 2nd West Kents and three companies of the South Staffords rejoined the Divisional Head Quarters from Hammonia and Ficksburg, leaving one company of the Staffords entrenched at Commando Nek. General Campbell's force was marching with all haste from Rooikranz North to the Brandwater Basin; the Colonial Division was also hurrying on Fouriesburg from Rooikranz West.

On the march this day we halted opposite the enemy's late positions and had the opportunity of inspecting their gun pits and recesses; the latter consisted of caves in the solid rock, round the front of which were constructed heavily built sangars. However, our artillery fire must have been very effective, for the huge rocks overhanging their guns had been repeatedly struck by our shells, which must have burst right in the mouths of the recesses; the casualties amongst their gunners must therefore have been heavy. We reached camp at 9 p.m. and managed to get some loot from an adjacent farm, finally retiring to rest about midnight.

On July 26th the troops with the Head Quarters of the Eighth Division, pushed on to General's Nek and from that place Driscoll's Scouts moved on Fouriesburg,

arriving in the town about noon, only to find that the enemy had just evacuated it, leaving behind them their British prisoners—thirty-two officers and eighty-three men. The remainder of our mounted troops at once pushed into Fouriesburg, followed by four companies of the Scots Guards and half a battalion of the Leinsters, together with two guns of the R.F.A.

At General's Nek, about forty armed Boers with their horses surrendered.

We marched out of camp at 6 a.m., skirting a range of high hills on our right and passing through the grounds of a large flour mill, which appeared to be well stocked with flour. We were not, however, permitted to help ourselves, and although several managed to secure a little flour, they were compelled to leave it behind, to be in all probability subsequently used by roving bands of the enemy when they passed that way. We arrived at our camping ground after a heavy march of about twenty miles. Before moving on Fouriesburg, it was explained to us that the town was about eight miles from our present position, and that the town, together with about a hundred British prisoners were held by the enemy. Volunteers for their relief were asked for and were readily found in the 2nd Scots Guards and the 1st Leinsters respectively, while the remainder of the force encamped eight miles from Fouriesburg. General Rundle and his Staff, with one company of the Imperial Yeomanry, galloped to Fouriesburg through one of the most mountainous and difficult parts of the newly-acquired country, the infantry following. The enemy became so alarmed at the sudden dash made at the town and were so completely taken by surprise, that they fled to the hills by which the town is surrounded, leaving all their prisoners behind.

This day's march, which was one of the longest of the campaign, must have been close on thirty miles, and was performed under special difficulties. Permission was given to use our emergency rations, but loot was afterwards obtained in considerable quantities in the town, for many of the houses had been abandoned by Boer families, who had accompanied the enemy to the hills.

In regard to "Emergency Rations" it may be interesting to remark that they are carried by all troops on active service, and should be used only under exceptional circumstances. The cocoa-paste was good, but the so-called concentrated beef was practically worthless. Frequent inspection of emergency rations revealed the fact that they had been lost, stolen or eaten, the punishment for which was a court-martial or a severe sentence from the Commanding Officer. The following is a facsimile of the printing on the outside, which will best describe for what use they are intended :—

Emergency Ration (Field Service).

"This ration is not to be opened except by order of an officer, or in extremity.

"It is to be carried in the haversack, and produced at inspection, etc.

"The ration is calculated to maintain strength for 36 hours, if eaten in small quantities at a time.

"To open the packet, tear off the band in the centre, when two tins will be found—one containing 4ozs. concentrated beef, and the other 5ozs. of cocoa-paste."

Concentrated Beef—4ozs.

1.—The beef can be eaten dry with or without biscuit.

2.—One-fourth of the contents of this tin boiled for an hour will make one pint of excellent beef tea.

Cocoa Paste—5ozs.

1.—The paste can be eaten dry, with or without biscuit.

2.—One-fourth of the contents simmered for a quarter of an hour in one pint of water will make liquid cocoa of good strength.

The tin is cylindrical in shape, about six inches in length and two inches in diameter.

In the afternoon General Hunter arrived at Fouriesburg and was met by General Rundle, who handed him the Free State flag captured in the town. This flag was presented by General Hunter to the popular Captain Driscoll, whose men were the first to enter the town. After this meeting General Hunter returned to his camp two or three miles outside the town. Amongst those found to be living in the town was Mrs. Steyn, the wife of the Ex-President.

On the following day, July 27th, General Hunter relieved the Eighth Division at Fouriesburg by the troops of Generals Clements and Paget. The Head Quarters of the Eighth Division moved with the following troops to Blackwood's Farm, near Little Caledon Poort: Five companies of Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, six guns of the R.F.A., 2nd Scots Guards, 1st Leinsters, 21st Bearer Company.

In the evening the troops which had relieved Fouriesburg rejoined the troops which they had left the previous day. Owing to the waggons having got "stuck up" in crossing a difficult drift, we had to make the best of one blanket each, for the tents and great coats were on the waggons, which did not reach camp until the following morning.

July 28th, the 2nd Royal West Kent, with the mounted infantry of the Battalion, joined the Divisional Head Quarters early in the morning at Blackwood's Farm, having accomplished 45 miles in 48 hours. The forces of Generals Rundle, Clements and Paget moved to the east on *Slapkranz, where they engaged the enemy, who were holding a strong position. The Imperial Yeomanry of our Division and Driscoll's Scouts protected the flanks of the column ; the 2nd Scots Guards, 1st Leinsters and six guns of the R.F.A. moved with the main body, and the West Kents formed the rear guard. The advanced guard under General Clements having reconnoitred the enemy's positions, which were on heights on both flanks of the valley west of Slapkranz, the 2nd Scots Guards and the 1st Leinsters, under Colonel Harley, opened the attack, supported by a very heavy artillery fire. The 2nd Scots Guards succeeded in occupying a kopje which outflanked the enemy's advanced position. The attack was renewed at midnight, under cover of the darkness, by the 2nd Scots Guards and two companies of the 1st Leinsters, supported by four companies of the West Kents, the result being that the enemy's position was occupied. Our casualties were Lieutenant Hon. R. Robertson, Imperial Yeomanry, and Lieutenant Alston, 2nd Scots Guards, wounded ; three killed and about a dozen men wounded. After gaining the key of the Boer position, the troops bivouacked on the ground thus won.

On July 29th (Sunday), a cessation of all hostilities somewhat puzzled us, but news quickly went round that the enemy, being practically surrounded, were negotiating for terms of surrender.

* Slapkranz lies between the Little Caledon River and the Caledon River; it is about 15 miles south-east of Fouriesburg.

In the afternoon it was officially announced to us that the enemy, under Commandant Prinsloo, estimated at between four and five thousand burghers, had surrendered unconditionally. This news of course was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the troops, who cheered again and again and sang "God save the Queen."

The great surrender was celebrated in the evening by a double issue of rum.

This, the greatest defeat of the Boers since Paardeberg, was the work of Generals Hunter, Rundle, Paget, Clements, Brabant, and Macdonald, and was accomplished in the most difficult part of the Orange River Colony. As far as our Division was concerned, we had managed to keep intact a line reaching from Senekal to Ficksburg against a mobile enemy who were ever on the alert to break through and thus cause endless inconvenience and damage to the lines of communication.

So well was this work performed by our half-fed troops, that every effort of the Boers to break through was frustrated, and now we had the satisfaction of seeing our efforts crowned with success. The spirit of the remaining commandos, however, remained unbroken, and small mobile parties, scattered over the vast area of the State which we had undertaken to occupy, perfectly familiar with the ground, and in close touch with the civil population, succeeded in making our task one of extreme difficulty. We certainly thought that this surrender would be the coup de grâce to the Orange Free State, just as we had supposed that the fall of Pretoria would finish the war, but we were again doomed to disappointment.

July 30th was occupied in accepting the surrender of the Boer Commandos and destroying their arms.

General Boyes, commanding the 17th Brigade, arrived at Fouriesburg with the South Staffords, 2nd Manchesters, and two guns of the R.F.A.

We were up at 6 a.m., breakfasted at 7, and paraded at 8, after which we marched up to "Surrender Hill," where General Rundle's Head Quarters were situated. Here the Scots Guards, Munster Fusiliers and the Royal Irish were formed up as a Guard of Honour to receive the Boers. General Paget was also there with mounted troops and a few of Brabant's Horse. The artillery took up position on the right of the Guard, and the Union Jack was unfurled. The Band of the Royal Irish, and the Drums, Fifes and Pipes played alternately whilst awaiting the arrival of the burghers. The first prominent Boers to appear were Prinsloo, De Villiers, and Crowther—fine-looking men; they were preceded by Sir Godfrey and Lady Lagden, from Basutoland, who had come to witness the final scene. Then followed the commandos, who threw down their arms and ammunition with a certain effect of swagger in front of the guns. The whole scene was most romantic.

In the background were huge mountain masses standing out in the clear morning air, and from these came the various commandos winding down the steep mountain paths to the valley below. They were a motley lot—old and young men—some mere boys; all had two horses each at least, but many had three, the spare ones being used for baggage, which consisted of pots, pans, bedding, blankets, etc. There were a considerable number of natives among them, all of whom were mounted, though very scantily clad. A huge number of waggons and Cape-carts followed, in which were many women, the wives of the burghers.

From a photo by R. D. Harris, Johannesburg, (*See p. 75.*)

CAPTAIN L. C. V. ANDERSEN, O.V.S. ARTILLERIE, SURRENDERED AT SLAAPKRANTZ, JULY, 1900.

From a photo by R. D. Harris, Johannesburg. (See p. 135.)

SIGNALLERS WITH HELIOGRAPHS. (2nd Batt. Grenadier Guards.)

A Surrendered Commando, July 30th, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 103.)

From a photo by R. D. Harris, Johannesburg. *(See p. 83.)*

"Jack" and his Master—Private R. Lauchlan.

Boer Prisoners: One of the Oliviers, July 30th, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 24th Company, M.I.V.")

(See p. 105.)

A Somersetshire Christening, July 30th, 1900.

Reproduced by permission of W. Tomson, Esq., publisher of "The Week in the Transvaal," Pretoria.

From a photo by R. B. Harris, Johannesburg. (See p. 50.)

"Bugle" and his Master—Private R. Lauchlan.

Boer Prisoners: One of the Oliviers, July 30th, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 103.)

Boer Prisoners, July 30th, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 103.)

Scots Guards' Pipers at the Prinsloo Surrender, July 30th, 1900.

(Reproduced by permission of W. Corner, Esq., Author of "The Story of the 34th Company, M.I.Y.")

(See p. 103.)

Whilst awaiting the arrival of the Boers, General Hunter walked down the lines and addressing the Scots Guards, expressed his pleasure at receiving the salute from the regiment, and complimented the battalion, through Colonel Romilly, on the way in which the night movement had been carried out. After receiving the burghers we returned to camp, headed by the Drums and Pipes.

The surrender of the prisoners of war continued throughout the following day, they being despatched in parties of two hundred to the neighbouring town of Fouriesburg, under the escort of the Imperial Yeomanry.

Thus, by the end of July, were the organised fighting forces of the Free State effectually shattered. During a period fraught with the greatest conceivable hardships we had not only succeeded in keeping a well armed, admirably mounted, and resourceful enemy from breaking through our cordon, but we had captured the flower of the Free State Army. The enemy, too, had been operating in a country peculiarly suitable to their mode of fighting, all the inhabitants of which really formed part of their extensive and excellent Intelligence Department. These people were ever on the alert to mislead our Intelligence Officers, but on the other hand were always eager to give the enemy the fullest details of our movements. In addition to this they were intimately acquainted with the detailed geography of the country, while on the other hand we were lamentably ignorant of even the general physical features of the State.

The importance of keeping this line intact is evident, for had they succeeded in forcing it they would have been enabled to pour their forces into the country recently settled; the disaffected burghers would have again

joined their standard, and the whole of our past work would have been wasted. The railway would have been at their mercy and they would have been in a position to cut off all food supplies and reinforcements from our army operating in the north.

It was this task, the success of which was of such vital importance to the whole campaign, that led General Rundle, who had all the hard preliminary work to do, to hold to his purpose with such tenacity.

Our supplies had to be brought from Bloemfontein or Winburg, over a difficult and dangerous tract of country, the escorts for which could ill be spared—the result was that we existed on a minimum of food. The troops during this trying period were gaunt, ragged and hunger-stricken, and the popular name by which we were known—" Rundle's Greyhounds "—was singularly appropriate.

The scene of our closing operations was a valley known as the " Caledon Valley," named from the Caledon River, which forms in part the boundary between the Orange River Colony and Basutoland.

It consists of a great depression which is really a succession of valleys separated by mountainous ridges, and interspersed with formidable kopjes, which are fortresses in themselves, but when suitably entrenched and fortified by sangars become impregnable. Excellent gun pits and shelters on these kopjes can generally be made from the innumerable boulders which strew their surfaces.

This basin has a number of now well-known inlets, known as Neks, Poorts or Gates. When properly held by armed parties using modern rifles and artillery, they are practically impregnable.

One well defined pass into the valley is Commando Nek, facing the Basutoland Border. It crosses a high ridge of mountains, being flanked on either side by high rugged kopjes. Naauwpoort Nek faces Harrismith, while Golden Gate is a narrow and difficult pass facing the east.

All these were securely held by the British during the operations that ended in the surrender of Prinsloo's Army.

Throughout the month the weather was fine, the warm, bright days, however, being followed by cold nights with hard frosts. Fortunately for us, during this month we had the advantage of an additional blanket.

On the whole the winds were light, a north by north-westerly wind prevailing.

On July 20th, a very high wind got up, causing great discomfort to those privileged to canvas life, which was followed by very heavy rain on the 22nd.

The health of the troops appeared to be good, notwithstanding their exposure during these cold, frosty nights. A good many men complained of rheumatism, and many were admitted to hospital suffering from the prevailing diseases of the campaign—enteric fever and dysentery.

Our water supply was always scanty and rarely of good quality, very seldom being in sufficient quantity to admit of our bathing. Facilities for bathing or washing were always wanting, notwithstanding the fact that we had to wear the same clothes for weeks together. During these operations we had neither time nor opportunity to wash our clothes, and the natural result was not the least of our sufferings.

CHAPTER VI.

On to Harrismith—Through Naauwpoort Nek—We meet the Highland Brigade—Occupation of Harrismith—Welcome to the Eighth Division—Establishment of British Rule—Instances of Boer Persecution—Opening of the Harrismith-Ladysmith Line—Distribution of the Division—A Kaffir Wedding.

On August 1st, the Division marched through a basin-shaped depression to Naauwpoort Nek, where we encamped for the night. On entering camp we were greeted by the welcome strains of the Bedford Regiment's Band. It reminded us forcibly of home, and rumours now were current among the troops that, as the greater part of the Free State Army had been captured, we were marching to Harrismith with the object of leaving that place by rail for Durban, en route for home.

How many of our poor comrades believed this to be the truth, who are now, alas, lying in their narrow beds in that quiet cemetery which nestles at the base of the huge mass of the Platberg!

While passing through this Nek, which faces south-east towards Harrismith, we saw the trenches made by the Highland Brigade when holding that strategic point in the recent operations.

The following day we left Naauwpoort Nek at 6.30 a.m. and marched to Waterval Farm, a distance of about fifteen miles, arriving at that place at 4 p.m. The route of march was parallel to the Drakensberg Mountains and in the distance we could seek one of its highest peaks—Mont Aux Sources—rising 11,000 feet

above the sea level. It is from the slopes of this mountain that the Tugela, the Vaal, the Orange and the Caledon Rivers rise. During our march we saw the usual number of carcases of oxen and horses lying in the track of the waggons or by its side. The stench from these putrefying heaps was horrible, and exhausted as were the troops, they were compelled temporarily to quicken their pace; the skeletons of scores of animals lay bleaching in the sun, having been stripped of their fleshy coverings by the countless asvogels which follow in the train of war and riot on the field of carnage. Notwithstanding their numbers, these loathsome birds were unable to keep pace with the scavenging which war had provided. A gruesome sight it is to see these disgusting creatures waddling round a dying horse or ox, eager to rend its still living flesh, or, what is even more pitiful, to see a dying horse slowly and painfully lifting its head, and turning its large, pleading, death-stricken eyes on you, all but asking your assistance.

On August 4th we marched out of Waterval Farm Camp at 6.30 a.m., halting a few miles further on at a Jew's store. On resuming our march we met a large number of Boers, under escort, who had surrendered to General Hunter. After accomplishing sixteen miles we marched into camp at De Klerk's Spruit.

On August 5th we were up at 4 a.m., and marched off at 5, halting for a brief rest at Elands River near Mount Paul, an isolated kopje about eighteen miles south-west of Harrismith. Here an extra meat ration was issued, after which we resumed our march to Harrismith, halting for the night at Glen Lennie.

The following day, Bank Holiday, we were on our last stage of the march, and finally reached our camping ground about five miles outside the town.

The town had been first occupied on August 4th, by the Highland Brigade, under Macdonald, who had deviated from his intended line of march at the urgent request of the British residents of the town. Although within sound of the guns of Ladysmith, yet this essentially British town had for months been anxiously awaiting British occupation. Just as Macdonald's Brigade marched out of the town, the troops of General Rundle marched in, and from that time it has remained one of the most important garrison towns of the Orange River Colony.

It has a population of about 1,700, the greater part of which is British; it lies in a shallow basin surrounded by ridges and is near the Drakensberg. On the east of the town lies the Platberg, a huge mountain on whose weird looking crags countless vultures make their homes. The town stands on the main trade route to Natal via Van Reenen's Pass, being connected with Ladysmith by a single line.

During the siege of the latter town the railway was utilised to its fullest extent by the Boer Governments, but after the relief of the town, the line was destroyed in many places by them, and the repairs were not completed by our people until the 9th of August, when the first train arrived at Harrismith Station from Ladysmith with the long looked for food supplies.

Shortly after arriving in camp a small garrison, consisting of two companies of the Guards—mine being one—with a couple of guns, was detailed for the town. We reached the Market Square, in the middle of a terrific dust storm, and halted in front of the Bank of Africa. Dusty, dirty, ragged and hunger stricken men, we must have presented to the inhabitants a striking spectacle. Many ladies of the town brought jugs of

tea to us, but which, however, we were forbidden to take—for what reason we could not imagine. Dr. Porteous, one of the resident ministers of the town, kindly asked to be allowed to provide us with refreshment, but was told that it was unnecessary as we had abundance of food on the waggons! However, without contradicting this statement, suffice it to say that we did not break our fast until 7 p.m. Our company encamped behind the Town Hall, and furnished guards for the Bank of Africa, the Landdrost's Office, Court House, and the Post Office.

The transformation that was wrought in the town of Harrismith after the arrival of the British Columns was most striking. Where before was scarcely a sign of life, there was now nothing but animation; the people began to realise that the deliverance brought was to be a permanent one, and that they were not going to be left again to the tender mercy of an undisciplined foe. Nevertheless such complete change in the old order of things necessitated the exercise of much patience and tact—qualities in which our General was by no means lacking.

Shortly after our arrival General Rundle determined to favour the inhabitants of Harrismith with a march past of the Division. Accordingly on August 7th at 10.30 a.m., the three Generals with their Staffs took up positions opposite the Town Hall, in the presence of a large assembly. Shortly after, the Grenadier Guards, followed by the Scots Guards and other troops, marched past. On entering the square the troops were again and again cheered. The cow gun and artillery came in for special attention.

After the march past matters settled down to something like their normal state, but amid the apparent

quietness there was much being done in a quiet way, the effects of which were felt by those who came under the bann of Lord Roberts' proclamation, calling upon burghers to lay down arms.

On Wednesday evening a grand concert was given in the Town Hall under the patronage of General Rundle and the officers of the Division. The concert, as announced on the programme, was "A welcome to Her Majesty's Troops." Unfortunately the Town Hall was not large enough to accommodate all those desirous of attending.

The entrance of the General was a signal for an outburst of enthusiasm, on the part of the civilians especially, for in him they recognised the man of the hour, who had come to bring order out of chaos, and establish right and justice.

The soloists and chorus wore sashes of red, white and blue, in keeping with the occasion. For the benefit of the troops the concert was repeated on the following night, when the place was again packed to overflowing, and at the close the ladies cut up their sashes and distributed the pieces among the troops. These were prized very highly, and will no doubt be kept as souvenirs of our arrival in Harrismith, the most English town in the country.

A more royal welcome to Her Majesty's troops has not been extended by any town, excepting perhaps Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking. In many respects these towns were much worse off than Harrismith, but in one respect at least that town has been worse off than any other, especially during the last few weeks preceding our occupation.

In the earlier months of the war, while things were going well with the Boers, those of the inhabitants who

were of British nationality had not much to complain of under the circumstances, but when the Boers began to meet with serious reverses the position of all claiming to be British became unbearable. They had to bear persecution and insult of every kind, and any attempt to get the smallest degree of justice utterly failed. Just before hostilities began many wisely left for Natal. This was a great cause of offence to the Dutch community, particularly the officials, who begged and prayed of those still remaining not to run away, adding that the Boers were not barbarians, but a civilized people. Those who elected to remain were assured again and again that they would not be called upon to fight against their own kith and kin, and indeed that they would not be interfered with in any way so long as they preserved a strict neutrality. Even written assurances were given. But all these promises were broken without compunction.

According to the Commando Law, commandeering—which has proved to be only another term for freebooting—could only be carried on for one month after the outbreak of war, and during the first month of the conflict the Free State Government did not fail to avail itself of what it was pleased to consider its constitutional rights.

For some months after, all that was required was paid for, but later on, when the cause of the Republics had become hopeless, payment was made in greenbacks, which were not worth the paper they were printed on, and finally, anyone on commando who chose, could go into any store and take whatever he pleased. This practice was practically winked at by the authorities, who would give an order, when they knew that the goods would never be paid for.

Emboldened by the weakness of the officials, the Boers even went to the extent of requiring the return of money for things they had bought days before, the demand being coupled with insults and threats of the grossest nature. Yet when complaint was made at official quarters, no notice whatever was taken. Further, notwithstanding the assurances that Britishers would not be called upon to fight, they were repeatedly commandeered, and a number were forced to the border under the pretext that they were only required to prevent native raids on stock. Several secured substitutes, who were accepted, but not long after they were commandeered again, and informed that substitutes were not acknowledged. In some cases substitutes were retained for months while their principals did special duty in town. Even ambulance men, holding Red Cross certificates, were commandeered to take up arms, and impudently told that their certificates would not help them, as they could be taken away from them at any time.

Shortly before the occupation of Bethlehem, about fifty Britishers in Harrismith were fined—some £5 and others £10, or fifteen days' and thirty days' hard labour respectively, to be done in town or at the laager at the discretion of the field-cornet. This latter persecution was the result of studied and bare-faced lying on the part of the town military authorities.

In the early days of the war, a proclamation was published by the Boer Government to the effect that anyone spreading false war rumours would be severely dealt with, and yet in the face of their own proclamation, the Government issued regularly the merest tissue of lies. Even the local officials have not been guiltless in *this* matter. But when any Britisher had the temerity

to call into question the truthfulness of the statements published, he was threatened with severe punishment.

One man, for stating, in reply to a question, that he was a true-born Britisher, spent three months in gaol. On another occasion a Britisher was fined £5 for saying that Cronje was surrounded before it was officially published, although he only repeated what he had read in the "Standard and Diggers' News."

In other parts of the State, Colonial and English papers were received openly by Britishers and others, and were borrowed and read by the officials.

But the officials were so overbearing at Harrismith that papers had to be got in by stealth from other towns in the State. When Mr. Steyn passed through the town on his way to the laagers in Natal in January, 1900, he advised the burghers not to "soil their hands by looting, as did the barbarians," knowing full well that scores of truck loads of loot had been sent to Harrismith from Natal, and at that very time the railway goods' shed was nearly full of it.

One of the most unpleasant features of Boer persecution has been the ill-feeling shown by the more ignorant class of burghers, who could not distinguish between principles and personalities. This was at times past endurance. One old man, for saying that General Buller would soon be here and put a stop to such treatment, was sent to gaol for five weeks without trial.

In one glaring case of aggravated assault, an attempt was made to have the offender punished, but all the satisfaction the complainant got was a warning that if he brought another case before the court—although that was the first one he had brought—he (the complainant) would be bound over to keep the peace for six months! Government seals put on for the protection of the property of Britishers, were broken off, and when the

charge was laid at the Government Office, the reply was that there was no law under which a person could be prosecuted for such an offence.

Such a state of affairs fully explains the right royal welcome given to the troops of the Eighth Division.

The general opinion of the British residents in Harrismith when the war broke out, was that the burghers would never be allowed to get possession of the passes of the Drakensberg, and that it would not be long before Harrismith would be made a base of operations ; but as time passed it became quite evident that miscalculations had been made, and in the face of the treatment of Britishers by the burghers, it was very natural that disappointment would be felt ; but at the same time the utmost confidence was placed in our military authorities. Each one consoled himself with the thought that when the whole plan of campaign was known, and victory was on the side of right, truth and justice, it would be seen that the leaving of Harrismith so long was the only course that could be followed to ensure complete victory.

The last month of waiting was the most trying of all, as seldom a day passed without some fresh rumour being started as to what was going to be done to Britishers. It was bruited about that all private houses, excepting of course the Dutch, were to be searched to see if some evidence could be found to establish the suspicion that British residents were in communication with our troops. According to rumour a search was to be made to see what provisions people had, and if they had more than the authorities considered sufficient, the remainder was to be looted.

At one time relief was expected from Natal, and at another time it was expected from the direction of *Bethlehem*. From about the 21st of July, sounds of

firing were heard in the direction of Fouriesburg. They were very faint at first and only heard occasionally, but they gradually became louder until Saturday the 28th, when they were heard very distinctly. On that day the booming of the guns sounded from morning till night, and on the 29th they were heard from about 3 p.m. till sunset, since which date no more firing was heard. On the 29th at midday, a report brought by two dispatch riders was posted up in the post office window, to the effect that a fight had taken place in the hills to the right of Witzie's Hoek. Various rumours were current as to the cause of this firing, but it subsequently proved to be the final stage of the operations which culminated in the surrender of Prinsloo's Army, and which was speedily followed by the occupation of Harrismith.

The British occupation of the town was followed by a united thanksgiving service in the Town Hall. The sermon was preached by Dr. Porteous, who took his text from Daniel iv., 25: "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will."

In the course of an eloquent and appropriate sermon he stated :—

With our imperfect knowledge and dim perception it is at all times difficult to see the tokens of God's sovereign presence in the events of the world; but more especially so during a period of social upheaval and bloody conflict, such as that through which we have just passed. It would be superfluous for me to expatiate on the evils of war; on the dismay and perplexity and horror which war breeds in human hearts. I do not need to dwell on war's fearful ravages. These awful experiences have come home to ourselves in actual life. We can realise them only too vividly, without any flight of imagination. I purpose rather to direct your thoughts to the great benefits which accrue from a war waged in a righteous cause, and which triumphantly vindicates justice and redresses wrongs. True, war brings in its train unspeakable horrors: the prayer for "peace in our time" should rise from

every Christian's heart. But there are even worse evils than those which attend war. Peace may be enjoyed at too heavy a sacrifice. War when it is engaged in at the clear call of duty and patriotism, for the deliverance of the oppressed, for the honour of the laws of the Eternal, may be in truth a holy crusade. The late Poet Laureate contrasting an ignoble peace with a just and glorious war says :—

"Peace sitting under her olive, and slurring the days gone by,

. . . . . .

When only the ledger lives, and when only not all men lie ;

. . . . . .

Is it peace or war? better, war! loud war by land and sea,
War with a thousand battles, and shaking a hundred thrones."

A distinct benefit of the South African War will be that it will have the effect of elevating the mind and strengthening the character of many a young British Colonist, who has fought for the Queen and Empire. It has been frequently remarked that the younger generation of colonists were less manly, less hardy than their fathers, who had taken part in the pioneer struggles. There is certainly very much in colonial life to encourage self-indulgence and indolence. For the majority hard work is not compulsory, It is generally possible to make a decent living without any strenuous effort. Probably it was the case that many of the young men—the sons of hard-working farmers and traders, had more scope for self-indulgence than was good for them. This great war has had the excellent effect of putting the men of the British Colonies on their mettle. It has fanned their patriotism into flames, and that noble virtue has so mastered them that the sordid schemes and speculations with which the minds of many had been engrossed sank out of sight, and their ruling purpose was to vindicate the honour of their country. The Homeland as well as the most remote Colonies, has experienced a revival of patriotism. As the war has gone on, party distinctions in politics have almost disappeared for the time being. The British have probably never engaged in any war with such a thorough and general conviction that they were in the right, and that every man that fought was offering his life for the unity and honour of the Empire. That South Africa should be the scene of the most imposing display of Imperial patriotism in the British history is a deeply significant fact, which is pregnant with hope for the future of these Colonies. We

may reasonably expect that men who have voluntarily faced death to save their country from conquest will ever afterwards see the wider horizon of life, and be in sympathy with serious pursuits.

It is more difficult to estimate the moral effect which the war may produce on the Dutch Africanders who have fought against the British. For them, too, it has been a serious struggle; they have pitted their strength against a military power for which they had an inherited contempt. They are defeated, and will now learn that their boasting was unwise. They had dreamed that South Africa was theirs when they cared to claim it, and now they are forced to acknowledge that the British have at least the right inherent in the strongest arm to claim the whole land for their flag. It is a very humiliating experience. Nevertheless, it may prove most salutary. Everyone now recognises that the issues between the two races had to be tried some day. The infatuated policy of an earlier time, as it bore fruit, rendered the ordeal inevitable. Now that it is past we may hope that the political forces will in due time reach their natural balance. It may take years for the wounded self-esteem on the one hand to heal, and for the pride of conquest, on the other hand, to stoop to seek conciliation. But under just government much may be expected in the not far distant future.

Let us hope that the day may come when the eloquent words of Sir Wilfred Laurier, the French Canadian Premier, will find an echo in the hearts of Dutch South African patriots:—"We rejoiced at the opportunity of giving to the world a spectacle never before seen—the spectacle of the Colonies behind the Mother Country—and that we could not remain indifferent when England had a war with one of her enemies. We showed the world that the British Empire was above all a land of liberty, and that there was enough liberty in that empire to make it the duty of every citizen to affirm its unity when occasion presented."

This war has added rich possessions to the British Crown. Had I believed that this was the governing motive and aim of the war; that it was simply a war of conquest and national aggrandisement, I should not have spoken of it as I have done to-day. The lust of conquest has, as history testifies, betrayed empires to their ruin.

Let us earnestly hope that all foolish boasting will be excluded on the part of those who speak for the British people. The Empire has assumed grave responsibilities. Before it there lie, in the government of a United South Africa, very exalted privileges. The Most High has bestowed power and government in South

Africa on Great Britain, that His Kingdom may be advanced among men. There will undoubtedly follow a rapid development of the material resources of these lands. Commerce and industry will flourish. The progress in this direction which we confidently anticipate will undoubtedly be realized. May prosperity of a higher order be experienced! Among the South African peoples of various European and Native races may there be under British Rule an ever widening and deepening reverence for God; a strengthening of moral character, a growing enlightenment! As such fruits appear, the Christian mind will see more and more distinctly the over-ruling Providence of God in these awful events, which have issued in a change of rule in this land.

On August 9th the arrival of the first train from Ladysmith caused much excitement amongst the civilians of the town, for their food supplies were running very short. For some months past such luxuries as tea, coffee and sugar were unknown, except to a favoured few who had managed to eke out their original supply. To the troops of the Eighth Division, the repairing and opening of the railway between Ladysmith and Harrismith was to bring an end to short rations.

Referring to short rations, the following special Disional Order was issued :—

(Reuter's telegrams).

RUNDLE'S COLUMN.

Short of Supplies.

"London, 6th. (Special). Mr. Wyndham in reply to a question, stated in the House of Commons this afternoon that he had no official information regarding the reported privations of General Rundle's Force. Such details were not reported. He added that no enquiry would be made of Lord Roberts on the subject."

From a photo by T. E. Andrews, Harrisonville

(*See p. 110.*) HARRISMITH, SHOWING THE HEAD QUARTERS OF THE EIGHTH DIVISION.

Harrisburg, Showing the Head Quarters of the Bucktail Division.

(*See p. 123.*) A Kaffir Wedding at Harrismith.

(*See p. 134.*) Farm-Burning.

(*See p. 158.*) CROSSING THE WILGE RIVER DRIFT.

(*See p. 161.*) WAGON AFTER BEING SHELLED BY A 15-POUNDER.

The Exigencies of War.

"London 7th. (Special). Replying in the House of Commons to the criticism with regard to General Rundle's Force, Mr. Wyndham admitted that they had suffered hardships which, he said, were due to the exigencies of war. Everything possible had been done for the comfort of the soldiers during the campaign."

With reference to above, the Lieutenant-General is well aware that since leaving Edenburg the troops have undergone exceptional privations which has been necessitated by the orders received and the military exigencies of the situation.

He wishes, however, the division to know that, despite the hardships incurred, he has been enabled, by the hearty co-operation of all ranks of the Division he has the honour to command, to carry out the confidential instructions of the Field-Marshal, Commanding in Chief, which he received at Edenburg in April last.

With the occupation of Harrismith and the opening of the railway to Natal, he has the satisfaction of feeling that in any future operations his difficulties will be lessened and he will not have to call upon the troops to undergo privations which they have borne so cheerfully during the past four months.

By Order.

(Signed) G. E. HARLEY, Colonel,
C.S.O. Eighth Division.

Harrismith, 11-8-1900.

The above Order is to be read out on parade to every Squadron, Battery, Company and other Unit.

The following was the disposition of the troops of the Eighth Division on August 14th:—

At Harrismith: Head Quarter Staff Eighth Division, Head Quarters 16th Brigade, 3rd Company Gloucester Imperial Yeomanry, 4th Company Glamorgan Imperial Yeomanry, 6th Company Stafford Imperial Yeomanry, 7th Company Leicester Imperial Yeomanry, 8th Company Derby Imperial Yeomanry, 33rd Company East Kent Imperial Yeomanry, 36th Company West Kent Imperial Yeomanry, 41st Company Hants Imperial Yeomanry, Driscoll's Scouts, 77th and 79th Batteries R.F.A., Detachment 36th Company R.G.A. (5in. gun), Divisional Ammunition Column, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Leinster Regiment, 21st Bearer Company, 21st Field Hospital.

At Bethlehem: 2nd East Yorks Regiment, 62nd Company Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry.

At Reitz: Head Quarters of 17th Brigade, Royal Artillery Divisional Staff, 34th Company Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry, 35th Company Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry, Manchester Mounted Infantry Company, West Kent Mounted Infantry Company, 2nd Battery R.F.A., 2nd Manchester Regiment, 1st South Stafford Regiment, 22nd Bearer Company, 23rd Field Hospital.

At Thaban'chu, Ladybrand, Ficksburg and Senekal: 1st Company Wilts Imperial Yeomanry, 2nd Company Wilts Imperial Yeomanry, 1st Worcester Regiment, 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment.

During the brief period of rest in Harrismith, the appearance of the troops was much improved by the free use of soap and water, and their torn and tattered clothes were replaced by clothing from Durban. The

town was put in a proper state of defence, the troops taking up suitable positions on the ridges and hills commanding the townlands.

Within the townlands is a large native location, the occupants of which are chiefly employed as domestics in the dwelling houses, or as labourers in the various stores of Harrismith.

The photograph here reproduced is an interesting souvenir of a Kaffir wedding. The ceremony took place in the Kaffir Chapel, which forms in part the background of the picture. Such an important step as getting married is taken by the Kaffir with as much trepidation as by the average Englishman. The importance of the occasion is evidenced as much by the demeanour as by the dress of the contracting parties.

It would be a stretch of imagination to speak of the "blushing bride," but that most important of accessories—orange-blossom—is cheap here, and the costumes of the party would not disgrace an English country wedding.

The chapel above mentioned was presented to the Kaffir Christians by the Wesleyan Methodists of the town. I may add that the ceremony followed was the same as that which obtains in the Church of England.

I should like to take this opportunity of testifying to the loyalty of the native races to the Crown during the South African troubles ; and here I would warn Englishmen who do not know the country, against mistaking the application of the term "native races." Unthinking people are too apt to forget that there is a large, settled and civilised body of coloured people living near the towns and villages of South Africa.

In some towns these coloured citizens number nearly one-third of the population. It will give some idea of

their numbers and influence from the fact that Sir Alfred Milner recently received a deputation representing some 90,000 of them.

These people certainly do not mix socially with the Europeans, but they have certain political and civil rights, and it is gratifying that Sir Alfred Milner was able to assure them that their privileges stood in no danger of being curtailed. They have their own churches, schools and benefit societies; indeed, all the institutions of a civilised and law-abiding people.

CHAPTER VII.

Signalling and Signallers—Nine Weeks' Trek to Standerton and Back, via Bethlehem, Retiefs Nek, Ficksburg, Wit Kop, Reitz, and Vrede—Back to Harrismith—Action at Lombard's Kop—Plucky Defence of Ladybrand—Farewell to Volunteer Service Companies.

CONVOYS with provisions and munitions of war had to be conveyed and escorted to the troops of the Division occupying the outlying places of Bethlehem, Reitz and the Ficksburg District.

In addition to this necessarily heavy convoy duty, large areas of the Orange River Colony had to be cleared of the enemy, who had now settled down to harassing guerilla tactics, and were holding the more important ranges of hills commanding routes to the towns garrisoned by our troops.

To maintain communication with these garrisoned towns, and to warn our Columns of the movements of Boers, the heliograph was invaluable.

Touching the subject of signalling generally, it may be interesting to state that the heliograph is an instrument, fixed on a tripod stand, used for the rapid transmission of secret messages, by reflecting the rays of the sun from the mirror, or combination of mirrors belonging to it, in the required direction.

The instrument is very portable, and can be used, local conditions being favourable, up to a distance of seventy miles and more.

In cloudy weather, communication is maintained by flags, visible through telescopes up to ten or even fifteen miles, according to the state of the atmosphere. Flag-signalling, however, requires greater attention on the part of signallers, and is consequently of less value in practice.

In using the heliograph, the instrument is sighted—almost like a rifle—on to the post with which it is desired to communicate; the Morse code is used, and the dots and dashes are made by depressing the mirror to a position, mechanically arranged by the sighting, which throws the rays of the sun, for long or short periods, upon the distant station.

With the flag the dots and dashes are made by long or short waves of it, and for quick methods, suitable for shorter distances, the semaphore is used.

At night, signalling is carried on by means of suitable lamps, and the dots and dashes are made by manipulating a shutter, with a key, in front of the lens. On bright moonlight nights, the heliograph can be used to reflect the rays of the moon.

During the late war, signalling proved to be of vital importance in maintaining communication between outposts and the main camp; isolated posts or garrison towns, *e.g.*, Vrede, Bethlehem, Reitz, etc. Very often the heliograph was the only medium of communicating with those towns for several weeks; between columns on the march and fixed posts or depôt towns, and also between the various columns working in conjunction with one another.

During the "drives," practically all the columns forming the driving line were in constant communication with each other by means of signalling, and thus captures and movements of the enemy were frequently

known at Pretoria before the drive was completed and the general report sent in to the Army Head Quarters.

Signalling along the blockhouse lines was to a large extent superseded by telephone and telegraph towards the end of the war. The high features of the country, and the almost perpetual sunshine during the greater part of the year, coupled with the clearness of the atmosphere and the great range of vision, make South Africa an ideal signalling country.

It is only fair to say that signallers, in common with their comrades in the field, suffered the same hardships and privations, having frequently to be left on detached posts after the rest of the troops had moved into camp; in many instances, too, the exigencies of the movements compelled their being left on isolated posts for many days, during which time they had to make the best of their position and obtain their provisions in what way they could from neighbouring farms.

August 9th saw the 17th Brigade (under General Boyes) with its long chain of waggons, once again on the move. Reveille had been ordered for 3.15 a.m., and by mid-day the Column had reached a point about fourteen miles north of Harrismith, on the Newmarket-Vrede Road. On the 13th the Brigade reached Georgina, and from thence marched in the direction of Reitz. It then moved south-east, through an immense depression to the north-east, and encamped near Vrede on the 27th. Some of the mounted troops of the Brigade crossed De Lange's Drift, taking with them stock for Standerton, which had been rounded up by the Brigade. From Vrede the Brigade marched to Mill River, and two days later—September 9th—joined General Rundle's Head Quarters at Elands River Bridge.

On August 28th the 16th Brigade, under General Campbell, left Harrismith in a regular downpour of rain. After marching about eight miles we reached the bridge which crosses the Wilge River; here the rain abated somewhat, but later on in the evening a terrific thunderstorm burst over the camp and continued throughout the night, swamping the tents and compelling the crowded men in them to sit in pools of water until daybreak. The march was resumed the following day under the same conditions as the previous one.

Tommy Atkins mounted is a being in a long blue coat, with the collar turned up to his eyes, and the rim of his once smart slouch-hat drooping limply over his face. A rifle rests its butt in the leathern bucket attached to the saddle, and on his off-side.

Tommy on foot squelches through the soaking grass and mud, his rifle slung over his shoulder, his hands thrust deeply in his grey overcoat pockets, his head tilted to the beating and pitiless rain, and like his mounted chum, has a pipe gripped tenaciously between his teeth; it requires much skilful lighting, but when once alight—for matches are scarce—he can speedily supply a pipe light to all his comrades by means of a smouldering cloth obtained from the remains of his mess-tin khaki cover.

To see Atkins to advantage, you must see him under the most wretched weather conditions. You must see him on such a day as this, with miniature waterfalls dropping from his coat-collar, and small but extremely uncomfortable pools of water lodging near the nape of his neck. See him when he is wet through, when he hasn't a dry rag on him, and you will see the most cheerful and profane individual you have yet met. The

snake-like column winds on ; debilitated horses, hardy mules and willing, patient oxen, phlegmatic natives, and above all, exuberant spirited Tommies.

Spruits are swollen, drifts and roads are difficult to negotiate. Sometimes the road becomes better, with a firmer footing for the transport animals, but at times a difficult incline causes the mules to gasp and strain. Here it is, in spite of the whirr and crack of the long whip, the weaklings of the team discover themselves, and the column halts temporarily, to allow a dead ox to be unyoked and dragged to the side of the convoy track.

Deep ruts have been filled in with liquid mud and the treacherous surface deceives even the native driver and throws the waggon over. Again the column halts, and with loud curses from the transport men, the overturned waggon is righted, and the weary, shivering mules are again urged on.

Sometimes these animals are asked to do the impossible, but the mule knows his limitations and he refuses to pull any further. Then other teams have to be unharnessed from their loads and yoked to the waggon that is stuck.

Thus the day drags wearily on, and the next drift is approached with a large amount of anxiety and no little foreboding on the part of the conductor and transport authorities. Bad road, good road, muddy road, spruit and drift alternate, only the weather doesn't change ; it rains all the time.

However, there comes an end to the day's march at last, the head of the column is seen breaking off to the right, a temporary halt and then the waggons, one by one, begin to form up followed by the outspanning of the transport animals. A piece of ground has been

selected for camp, but at the best it is a sloppy waste of water. Outposts, guards, pickets and fatigue parties are detailed, after which the men settle down for the night. Notwithstanding the drenching rain, Atkins has got a bit of dry wood concealed somewhere about his person, and within a few minutes of his arrival in camp, scores of small fires are flickering desperately, and soon blaze forth in spite of wind and rain. His mess-tin is unstrapped from his equipment and soon he is cooking his evening meal, consisting of a "mash" of tea and a chupattee or biscuits. His "mash" is incomparably better than the luke-warm mixture of the "cook-house."

While preparing "tea" his comrade "draws the blankets" and is busy shortly afterwards in erecting the bivouac for the night. Material is scanty; each man is entitled to a couple of blankets and one waterproof sheet. Two blankets are fastened together. These form the bivouac. Two rifles forced through holes at each end of the blankets—these are the tent-poles; a mess-tin strap fastened to the rifle muzzle at one end and a bayonet thrust into the ground at the other—these are the "guy" ropes and pegs. Pieces of wood peg down the "walls" and the result is a comfortable bivouac for the two chums. Then the waterproof sheets are laid out on the damp floor, and with the two remaining blankets and their great coats, they are happy for the night. He dines late—luxurious beggar—and with his "tot" of rum, should it happen to be issued on this night, he sleeps without unlacing his boots, oblivious of his miserable surroundings.

On September 2nd we came in sight of Bethlehem, a small town on the veldt, dominated by kopjes, five thousand three hundred feet above the sea-level, and

possessing normally a population of eight hundred. The climate is particularly healthy, and like the other principal towns of the Orange River Colony, it possesses a large Dutch church with a stone spire, and is well planted with trees.

On September 3rd we marched through the town, pitching our camp about one mile south of it.

Approximately the distance between Harrismith and Bethlehem is sixty miles, and the two towns lie due east and west.

On September 4th we set off in the Ficksburg direction, passing through Retief Nek, on the west of which is Slabbert's Nek, two important strategic openings running generally east and west through the hills, and which lead into the fertile Brandwater Basin.

The entry into this difficult country necessitated heavy outpost duty, so that half the troops were detailed for that purpose. The absence of great coats, due to the late arrival of the transport waggons, accounted for our meagre covering throughout that very cold night.

The march was continued through a mountainous country, consisting of parallel ranges of hills, with here and there the usual flat topped kopjes, which offered vantage observation-posts to the Boers, who were thus easily able to anticipate our movements and design.

The rough roads inflicted enormous work on the oxen and transport animals, numbers of which either died on the road or had to be unyoked and abandoned to their fate.

On the 8th we reached Ficksburg on the Basutoland Border, the centre of an extensive wheat-growing district, through which we passed, halting for about three hours just outside the town, eventually marching off after tea, and continuing our march by moonlight

through one of the most romantic parts of the Orange River Colony, our way being through the long pass of Van Riscoll's, ultimately pitching our camp about one mile from its mouth.

The following day saw us on the move at 7 a.m., when we marched along the border, passing en route several large Basuto villages, the natives of which accompanied us for many miles, being apparently charmed by the strains of the bands and the drums and fifes. After accomplishing a twelve miles' march we encamped at 2.30 near the peculiarly shaped Wit Kop, and in the vicinity of two large lakes, one of which was used for drinking purposes and the other for bathing—a rare luxury. We stayed here for the succeeding six days, during which period the troops had the opportunity of indulging in cricket.

On September 16th we left Wit Kop, moving in a north-westerly direction towards Winburg, passing a little to the south of Hammonia, and collecting and destroying stores on the line of march. Small parties of the enemy were seen from time to time, and shots were exchanged with them, but no concentration of the enemy opposed our march.

The following day we heard artillery fire from the 17th Brigade in the direction of the Winburg-Senekal Road, and in the evening of this long day's march of some 20 miles or more, some of our Yeomanry had a sharp brush with a small party of Boers, in which Lieutenant Gordon, of Lennox's Horse, and one Yeoman were wounded.

Nothing further happened beyond that heavy marching was the order of the day, covering the sweep of country from Winburg, south of Senekal, and then on again to Bethlehem, which place we marched through on September 23rd, camping as usual on the outskirts

of the town and in close proximity to the 17th Brigade.

The next day found us at the usual Sunday's work—trekking—and night found us on the Reitz Road, by the side of two large lakes.

The following day we had a rest in camp, and were enabled to have a dip in one of the ponds, and do a little towards washing and repairing our clothes.

On September 7th the Head Quarters of the Division left Harrismith for Wilge River, proceeding the following day to Elands River Bridge, constructed for the projected railway between Harrismith and Bethlehem.

At Georgina a dead Basuto was found who had been brained after being shot. He was one of the Intelligence Officer's natives who had been sent on with a message to the 16th Brigade. This poor fellow is one of the long roll of those who have forfeited their lives in our service.

A Boer, it must not be forgotten, generally shot at sight any native he chose to suspect of having been in our service, and the Kaffir or Basuto well knew that this fate was always overhanging him. Nevertheless many were to be found to carry despatches through the Boer lines, and just as fearlessly would they lead our troops on the track of the enemy, knowing full well that a Mauser concealed behind a rock might bring their career to a speedy end.

The sight of a native runner is a never failing source of humour in camp. An entire costume of European clothes is most coveted, but any garment is readily employed to eke out the scantiness of the customary native garb. They were apparently slow to grasp the reason why a Kaffir in a khaki coat, puttees, and helmet —for preference decked with feathers—carrying an assegai, a walking stick, a tin pot and Tommy Atkins'

water-bottle, should have been suspected by the Boers of having been in our service.

At De Villier's Rust, three graves were opened near the camp in order to ascertain if they contained arms or ammunition, but proving to be bonâ fide graves they were refilled. Natives near this place reported that De Wet had visited the neighbourhood the previous day.

On September 11th the 16th Brigade marched at 8 a.m., previously destroying a neighbouring farm. Although this destruction of farms was one of the most regrettable features of the war, it was rendered inevitable by the continual loss inflicted on our troops, who were fired on by Boers secreted in the buildings, these being shielded from a return fire on our part by the presence of Boer women.

On the Brigade reaching Bethlehem we learned that the British residents of that place had been subjected to the usual ill-treatment and insults on the part of their Boer neighbours.

On the 12th, Field-Cornet Froeman, with a strong party of Boers, intercepted a patrol of the Derby Yeomanry under Lieutenant Power, a few miles out of Bethlehem. The Boer leader summoned the Lieutenant to surrender, at the same time threatening, if he refused, to attack him and give no quarter.

Froeman's messenger, however, was promptly sent back with the message, "No surrender"; whereupon the Boers opened a hot fire on the patrol, who successfully withstood the enemy's attack until the timely arrival of help. During the action, Lieutenant Power was slightly wounded.

On September 13th the Brigade left for Duikfontein, and at mid-day the march was continued to Zuringkranz and from thence to Senekal, but on nearing the town we soon discovered that the enemy, aided by a Krupp

gun and a pom-pom, were holding it. Their guns, however, were unable to successfully withstand our five-inch gun and the fifteen pounders, and after a sharp action, in which we took a few prisoners, the Boers were compelled to evacuate the town, falling back on Bronkhurstfontein, but not before removing the brandy left for the use of our sick. On the 17th the Brigade advanced on the Boer laager, and a battery of artillery, aided by our lyddite gun, occupying our centre, succeeded in destroying a number of their waggons, twenty-seven of which, together with two guns and a number of prisoners fell into our hands—amongst the latter being Van Zutphen, of Harrismith. During the action General Rundle was slightly wounded, and had a narrow escape from a pom-pom shell, and Colonel Blair was also slightly wounded.

The following day the Brigade returned to within four miles of Senekal, and proceeded on the 20th to the Zand River, from whence Duikfontein was reached. Here we learned that the Boers were murdering Kaffirs, on the charge that they were giving information to our troops. The murder of these native informers was now becoming frequent, and was due to the fact that the Boers were finding out that we were making as much use as they were of the Kaffirs. Everywhere the Kaffirs were deserting to our columns; as ready to show their zeal for the winning side as they were to avenge themselves for past ill-usage by revealing their tyrants' hiding places.

On September 22nd the Brigade reached Bethlehem and remainded there the following four days.

On the 25th and 26th we marched 15 miles and 14 miles respectively in a circuitous route by way of Elands Kop to Reitz, camping about five miles from the town.

The following day we managed to dig up a gun lost

at Nicholson's Nek, belonging to the Mountain Battery, together with a large quantity of S.A. ammunition, chiefly martini.

On September 28th we were again on the march at 6 a.m., doing ten miles and moving in a circular route to the north-west of Reitz and Vrede road, and in the evening General Rundle and staff with mounted troops joined our camp.

The following day we had a heavy day's march of about twenty miles, performed on short rations of two biscuits and a ration of flour, with a decoction made from sugarless burnt mealies, in lieu of coffee, which was now exhausted. Indeed, at this period we were again having a repetition of our former experience in the matter of heavy marching on short rations.

Grazing, too, was wretched, and was telling its tale on the transport animals, which were dropping out daily in large numbers. We were greatly handicapped further by the scarcity of fuel, which frequently prevented our cooking the rations of flour issued.

On October 2nd the Wilge was forded, and further heavy marching, together with the destruction of numerous farms on the line of march, was the feature of the trek.

On October 5th we reached Vrede, and encamped a mile outside the town. Vrede is a small village fifty miles north-east of Reitz, of the usual type. It has a population of two hundred and eighteen and possesses a stone church, hotel, some stores, and a jail. There is no attempt at street making, the houses being built in rows on the veldt, consequently the roads, except where worn by traffic, are covered with grass. No food stuffs were obtainable, the residents living chiefly on mealie meal.

The 2nd Scots Guards, 1st Leinsters, the Yeomanry, and a battery of artillery, left for Standerton on the 6th, with a large number of empty waggons for the much needed provisions. Having crossed the Klip River, the Force encamped for the first time on the Transvaal soil. The mounted troops in rear of the column having been fiercely attacked, half a battalion of infantry, with a couple of guns, were despatched to their aid, with the result that the enemy speedily retired.

On Sunday, after a fourteen miles' march, we reached Standerton, but to the disgust of the troops they had again to put up with burnt mealies, although tons of provisions lay stored up in the town.

On October 9th, after resting for a day and a half in camp, during which time the convoy was loaded, we moved five miles towards Vrede where the Head Quarters were awaiting us, and on the following day the march was resumed, snipers hanging on the flanks of the column throughout the day. At daybreak we entered on the last stage of the Vrede journey, and on nearing the town fought a rear guard action, in which one of the Yeomanry was killed and several wounded; Vrede was ultimately reached in the dark, after a long and tedious march.

The sanitary condition of the town was wretched, and the stench from the putrefying carcases lying on the outskirts of it was horrible.

On October 7th the enemy made a night attack on Vrede, but soon discovered that the garrison we left behind was too strong for them, and the attack, which opened with heavy rifle fire, gradually ceased, leaving us with three casualties.

To clear the enemy from the hills flanking the road leading into Vrede from Standerton, a force was dis-

patched the following day consisting of the Yeomanry and Artillery, with the five-inch gun, 2nd Grenadiers, and 2nd Scots Guards. On our advance, the enemy, who offered slight opposition, fell back, and were seen disappearing over the hills. A farm house, which had been temporarily occupied by Boers, was literally blown to pieces with a shell from the cow-gun, in spite of several white flags, which, of course, were always to the fore when the first shells burst.

On October 18th the column reached Reitz, after undergoing the usual sniping. Reitz is a small scattered village, containing a stone church and a few brick houses, but with a great scarcity of water.

On October 23rd the column reached Vogelsfontein, about five miles from Bethlehem, encamping near the Iron Bridge, whilst a detachment proceeded with provisions into the town, where they found about one hundred men of the West Kents. These men, with other troops, had escorted a convoy of provisions from Harrismith, and on arrival here from De Villier's Rust, had to push on another seventeen miles to Blauwkop, where the Head Quarters were located. They had recently got new boots, and consequently many were foot-sore, and some whose feet were not fit for the trek were ordered to fall out and remain at Bethlehem. A few days after the bulk of the troops had left with the convoy, about six hundred of the enemy entered the town. The West Kent men were staying in the Court House, and on hearing of the approach of the Boers had buried their rifles. The Boers shortly afterwards entered the building with the cry of "Hands up, Rooineks!" and proceeded at once to ransack their kits, securing their clothing, tobacco and other valuables, intending the following day to make them prisoners. In this,

however, they were too dilatory and the fortunate arrival of part of our column soon made matters right.

On October 26th, the column left for Harrismith, having been joined by the troops detailed to escort provisions to Bethlehem. We had not advanced, however, more than five or six miles before our way was barred by a large body of Boers who were holding a strong position on a portion of the Langberg Range. Captain Gascoigne, the Brigade-Major, speedily brought orders for the troops on the flanks and rear of the column to be brought up. This movement completed, made up a force consisting of the Hants and Gloucester Companies of Imperial Yeomanry, half a battalion Scots Guards and two companies Grenadier Guards. These troops advanced, covered by the fire of the fifteen-pounders and the five-inch gun. A steady advance was maintained, until the fire became so hot that it had to be made in rushes, such cover as the ant-hills afforded being made the fullest use of. Upon reaching a line of telegraph posts the troops doubled past them, knowing by past experience that the Boers would have taken the exact range of them. The six or seven hundred yards which now lay between us and the enemy was exposed and devoid of even the friendly ant-hills. At this stage of the action, Captain Gascoigne arrived with orders from General Campbell to remain where we were for the present, as the fire was too hot and the object scarcely worth the risk of further loss. His instructions were that we were not to advance unless opportunity presented itself or the fire slackened. As a consequence of this order we remained for about four hours in the same position, during which time most of our casualties occurred. These included Lord G. Grosvenor, who was hit in the thigh whilst attending to Privates Dendy and Holmes, stretcher bearers of N. Company Scots Guards.

In this action the stretcher bearers were exposed to a deadly fire, and much praise is due to them for their coolness and efficiency.

The firing from the enemy gradually slackened, and about 4 p.m. an order was passed down to keep up a strong fire on the left, after which the troops advanced without opposition until nearing the crest of the ridge, when the retiring Boers gave us a few parting shots, doing, however, no further damage.

The position attacked was a low range of hills, out from which an isolated kopje—Lombard's Kop—stood like a sentinel to the range behind it. The whole day's fighting was marked by the stubbornness with which the Boers held their ground, although under a heavy and continuous fire from our artillery. Our casualties numbered twenty, inclusive of four of the Grenadiers and two Yeomen. The farms at the base of the hills were looted and afterwards burned, but while the troops were doing this they were fired on by the Boers, who had stealthily crept up into a position overlooking the farm; a few well directed volleys, however, soon cleared them away. Ammunition was found on the farms. The women and children were brought away with the column to Harrismith.

On the following day we buried Privates Houston and Holmes, of the Scots Guards, killed at Lombard's Kop, and the funeral was attended by Generals Rundle, Campbell and Boyes, together with their Staff. A small wooden cross, on which was written their names and date of interment, marks their last resting place.

Throughout the rest of the march to Harrismith, nothing beyond the usual sniping occurred, and on the 30th we again took up our duties in the defences of that town.

On our return to Harrismith we saw the following Special Divisional Order :—

Harrismith, September 6th, 1900.—The Ladybrand garrison, consisting of one company of the 1st Battalion Worcester Regiment and two troops of the 1st Wiltshire Imperial Yeomanry, was surrounded and attacked on September 1st by three thousand Boers and nine guns under Fourie, who called upon the garrison to surrender. This they refused to do, and being well intrenched, gallantly held their own until September 5th, when reinforcements arrived, on which the Boers retired, having fired three hundred and twenty rounds from their guns on the garrison, and kept up a constant rifle fire day and night. The garrison held a mile and a half of front. On receiving the news of the investment being raised, the Lieut.-General wired as follows to Colonel Oakes, commanding 1st Battalion Worcester Regiment at Ficksburg :—

Harrismith, September 5th, 1900.—The whole Division joins me in hearty congratulations on, and sincere admiration of, the plucky defence made by the Worcesters and Imperial Yeomanry at Ladybrand. They have gallantly upheld their motto,* and set an example to the whole of us of what infantry, well intrenched, can do against overwhelming odds. I beg you will convey the above to the officer commanding the Worcesters at Ladybrand and the Imperial Yeomanry there. I am publishing a Special Divisional Order to-day with reference to the above, to be read throughout the Division. Please wire how the wounded are doing.

The following reply was received from Colonel Oakes :—" September 5th.—Your message of

* " Firm."

September 5th much appreciated. Name of officer commanding company of Worcesters at Ladybrand, Lieut. E. M. Moss. Further report of wounded not yet received."

The Lieut.-General has the greatest satisfaction in publishing the above to the Division, and considers the Ladybrand garrison has shown that a small body of infantry, armed with magazine rifles, and with smokeless powder, even when unsupported by artillery, can, when properly intrenched, successfully withstand continuous shell fire and the attacks of the enemy in greatly superior numbers.

Further details of Commandant Fourie's attack on the town are as follows:—

Shortly after General Bruce Hamilton had succeeded in beating off the attack on Winburg, August 26th, the Boers made Ladybrand their centre of attraction.

On September 1st, Commandant Fourie, with three thousand men, nine guns and a pom-pom, appeared outside the town and summoned its garrison of 150, under Major White (R.M.L.I.) to surrender. The summons was promptly refused, with the result that the enemy opened a heavy artillery fire, under cover of which the Boers advanced on both flanks.

The British garrison consisted of one company of the 1st Worcester Regiment under Lieutenants Moss and Dorman, and two troops of the 1st Wilts Imperial Yeomanry, under Lieutenants Henderson and Awdry; they were well intrenched on a high ridge overlooking the town, and in recesses below the ridge, the whole intrenchments occupying a frontage of a mile and a half.

Fortunately they were well provisioned, had an abundance of water, and were buoyed up with the firm

belief that a relieving force would very shortly arrive from Thaban'chu.

The Boers made two spirited assaults, but both were repulsed by the plucky little garrison, with considerable loss to the enemy.

For three days they were subjected to the fire of the big guns as well as heavy rifle fire, until the Boers, losing heart and fearing the arrival of the relief column, drew off towards Clocolan with a loss of twenty-five killed and nearly forty wounded.

Our casualties were few, but included Sergt.-Major Clifford, Wilts Yeomanry, severely wounded, and Lieutenant Dorman, Worcester Regiment, slightly wounded.

On November 5th, 1900, the following Divisional Order was issued by General Rundle :—

> The Volunteer Companies attached to the Eighth Division have been ordered to England, viz. : The Volunteer Company, East Yorkshire Regiment, commanded by Captain Mortimer ; the Volunteer Company, South Stafford Regiment, commanded by Captain Denton ; the Volunteer Company, Royal West Kent Regiment, commanded by Captain Morphew.
>
> The Lieutenant-General takes this opportunity of placing on record his appreciation of their services, and regrets he has had no opportunity of personally saying " Good-bye " to the Royal West Kent Company, previous to their departure.
>
> Sir Leslie Rundle thanks them for the excellent spirit which prompted them to enlist for active service in South Africa with the regular battalions of their respective regiments under his command, and for their uniform good conduct during the

campaign under trying and arduous circumstances. The Volunteer Company, East Yorkshires, has shared the arduous work of holding the Senekal-Ficksburg line, which for so long prevented the Boers from re-occupying the southern portion of the Orange River Colony. The Lieut.-General has noted with satisfaction the excellent work done by the Volunteer Company of the South Stafford Regiment at Willow Grange, where he himself inspected them, and their subsequent behaviour in numerous engagements with the enemy. In bidding them good-bye, God-speed, and safe return to Old England, the Lieut.-General is confident he is expressing the feelings of the whole Division.

By Order.

G. E. HARLEY, Colonel.
C.S.O. Eighth Division.

On Sunday, November 4th, the 17th Brigade under General Boyes, with four guns, left Harrismith for Standerton. This force had been previously detached from the Division, and had arrived in Harrismith on October 14th, where they had been resting.

The route taken by the column was via Mill River Bridge, across Cornelis River (Swartz Drift), Newmarket and Vrede. A good amount of the usual opposition was experienced from small parties of Boers holding hidden and sheltered positions on the line of march. The casualties were three of the Manchesters and a Middlesex Yeoman (Rhodes), killed, including Lieutenant Woodhouse of the former regiment; Captain Lord Denman and Lieutenant Gray and several troopers, all of the 11th Battalion Yeomanry, wounded.

CHAPTER VIII.

Pacifying the Country—Action at Tigers Kloof—Lord Roberts' Farewell to the Army—Actions at Reitpan and Necramo Nek—Accession of His Majesty, King Edward VII.—The Queen's Memorial Service at Harrismith—Wilge River Drift—Pram Kop—Vrede—Harrismith Light Horse—De Langes Drift in Flood—Enteric Victims—The Grenadiers and Train Wrecking in Natal.

On November 19th, the troops again moved off with a convoy bound for Bethlehem. The first mishap fell to four of the 4th Battalion Yeomanry, who were allowed to approach within a few yards of a Kaffir Kraal, and were then fired on by about twenty Boers secreted behind the huts, the result being that two of the Yeomanry were killed on the spot while the other two were badly wounded. In the evening the two Yeomen were laid to rest in a garden by a ruined cottage.

The following day the Boers were found to be in a strong position at Tigerskloof, midway between Bethlehem and Harrismith. After a stubborn resistance their main position was taken by the 2nd Scots Guards, but the casualties included Lieut. A. M. Southey, who was shot dead whilst gallantly leading his men, Major E. E. Hanbury, who was hit in three places, chest and elbow severe, one man killed (Private Wilson), and two wounded. Great praise was due to all ranks in this action, the Imperial Yeomanry being admirably handled.

On the 23rd the convoy was safely delivered to the Bethlehem garrison, and Lieutenant Southey and Private Wilson were interred in the cemetery.

The return to Harrismith was commenced on the 25th, and throughout the journey the usual trouble with snipers continued.

On the 28th we were met by a force consisting of the Manchesters, some artillery, and all available Yeomanry from Harrismith, these having been dispatched to co-operate with us against the enemy, who had concentrated about fifteen miles from Harrismith. However, after firing a few rounds the Boers quickly dispersed and the co-operating force relieved us of the sick, prisoners, women and cattle, and then returned to Harrismith, leaving us free to destroy the neighbouring farms and to bring in further stock and supplies with which the enemy, occupying the outlying districts, were being supplied.

On December 1st the column returned to Harrismith, and shortly after our return the following Army Order was read :—

Headquarters of the Army in South Africa.

Johannesburg, 29th November, 1900.

"Being about to give up the command of the Army in South Africa into the able hands of General Lord Kitchener of Khartum, I feel that I cannot part with the comrades with whom I have been associated for nearly a year—often under very trying circumstances—without giving expression to my profound appreciation of the noble work they have performed for their Queen and country and for me personally, and to my pride in the results they have achieved by their pluck and endurance, their discipline, and devotion to duty.

"I greatly regret that the ties which have bound us together are so soon to be severed, for I should like to remain with the Army until it is completely broken up, but I have come to the conclusion that, as Lord Kitchener has consented to take over the command, my presence is no longer required in South Africa, and that my duty calls me in another direction. But I shall never forget the officers and men of this force, be they Royal Navy, Colonials, Regulars, Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteers; their interests will always be very dear to me, and I shall continue to work for the Army as long as I can work at all.

"The service which the South African Force has performed is, I venture to think, unique in the annals of war, inasmuch as it has been absolutely almost incessant for a whole year, in some cases more than a year. There has been no rest—no days off to recruit—no going into winter quarters as in other campaigns which have extended over a long period. For months together in fierce heat, in biting cold, and in pouring rain, you—my comrades—have marched and fought without a halt and bivouacked without shelter from the elements, and you frequently have had to continue marching with your clothes in rags and your boots without soles—time being of such great consequence that it was impossible for you to remain long enough in any one place to refit.

"When not engaged in actual battle, you have been continually shot at from behind kopjes by an invisible enemy, to whom every inch of the ground was familiar, and who, from the peculiar nature of the country, were able to inflict severe punishment while perfectly safe themselves.

"You have forced your way through dense jungles

and over precipitous mountains, through and over which, with infinite manual labour, you have had to drag and haul guns and ox-waggons. You have covered, with almost incredible speed, enormous distances, and that often on a very short supply of food, and you have endured the sufferings, inevitable in war to sick and wounded men far from the base, without a murmur—even with cheerfulness. You have, in fact, acted up to the highest standard of patriotism, and by your conspicuous kindness and humanity towards your enemies, and your forbearance and good behaviour in the towns we have occupied, you have caused the Army of Great Britain to be as highly respected, as it must henceforth be greatly feared, in South Africa.

"Is it any wonder that I am intensely proud of the Army I have commanded, or that I regard you—my gallant and devoted comrades—with affection as well as admiration, and that I feel deeply the parting from you? Many of you—Colonials as well as Britishers—I hope to meet again, but those I may never see more, will live in my memory and be held in high regard to my life's end.

"I have learnt much during the war, and the experience I have gained will greatly help me in the work that lies before me, which is, I conceive, to make the Army of the United Kingdom as perfect as it is possible for an Army to be. This I shall strive to do with all my might.

"And now farewell! May God bless every member of the South African Army, and that you may be all spared to return to your homes and to find those dear to you well and happy, is the earnest hope of your Commander,

ROBERTS, Field-Marshal."

The following was also received by General Rundle:

Ladysmith, December 2nd, 1900.

"I have most reluctantly given up my visit to Harrismith. I have been looking forward for some time past to see you and your troops, but I find I cannot now manage to spare the time to get there.

"I particularly wished to see the two regiments of Guards, and also Boyes' Brigade, and to tell all those serving under you how much I appreciate the hard work they have been called upon to do during the war. I have kept careful note of the frequent marches they have been obliged to make, the incessant convoy duty, and the many difficulties they have had to contend with, and I wished so much to thank you and them all in person for the good service they have done.

(Signed) ROBERTS."

At the beginning of December, 1900, the 17th Brigade left Harrismith, passing en route, Reitz, Senekal and Winburg, arriving at the latter place on Christmas Eve.

On December 20th, whilst the column was proceeding towards Senekal, the advance guard of the Glamorgan Yeomanry were met by a volley from a party of hidden Boers. Trooper Nell was shot dead, whilst Sergeant Thomas escaped with a slight wound.

A few well directed shells were placed amongst the fleeing Boers, who, however, subsequently turned up again in greater force and checked the column's advance for a short while.

A striking coincidence of the above casualty was that poor Nell was killed on his namesake's farm (Nel's Farm of Kareebosch), who himself was killed by the Middlesex Yeomanry at Senekal on May 26th, 1900. Shortly

after reaching camp his interment took place in the presence of the General and a large gathering of his comrades, who sang impressively, "Nearer, my God to Thee."

On December 27th, when quite close to Senekal, the advanced guard of the 34th Company Imperial Yeomanry were fired at by a body of the enemy concealed in a spruit, and Lieut. Basil Napier was mortally wounded, dying at noon the next day. His grave is near to that of Major Dalbiac, of the same Company, in Senekal Churchyard.

The Brigade shortly afterwards left with a convoy for General White's Column, which was following in the track of the ubiquitous De Wet, and after handing the convoy over, the Brigade left its Mounted Troops, consisting of the 34th and 35th Middlesex Yeomanry, and the Manchester Mounted Infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Firman, at Senekal, while the remainder of the Brigade returned to Winburg for its own supplies.

Subsequently the Brigade called at Senekal, picking up its mounted troops, and left on January 5th, proceedings towards Lindley. They camped about five miles outside Lindley and were joined the following day by Bethune's Mounted Infantry.

The whole force arrived at Reitpan, on the Senekal Road, January 6th, 1901, where a rear guard action was fought. Here the country is very difficult, consisting of ranges of hills, and the route of the column lay through one of the most difficult passes, each flank of which was held in force by the enemy. The artillery, consisting of a section of the 39th together with a section of the 77th R.F.A., shelled the enemy's position, and with the assistance of a pom-pom enabled the column to proceed.

The advanced guard had already reached their camping ground, when the order came that all mounted troops were to proceed to the assistance of the rear guard, who were under heavy fire from about two hundred Boers who had taken possession of a ridge which had just been vacated by a portion of our troops. The enemy were heavily firing on one of the rear guard guns at a range of eight hundred yards, with the result that six of the nine horses were hit, although fortunately only one of the gunners was struck. The Manchester Mounted Infantry, Bethune's Mounted Infantry, and the two companies of Middlesex Yeomanry dismounted, and opening out in skirmishing order advanced towards the ridge, covered by the fire from a fifteen-pounder and a pom-pom. The ridge was taken, although at a cost of one killed and nine wounded, amongst the latter being Lieut. A. Palmer of the 34th Imperial Yeomanry. The enemy left five killed on the ground, but most of their wounded were carried away. Two of our wounded succumbed to their wounds, which were inflicted by explosive bullets.

Subsequently the column arrived about six miles north of Bethlehem, and from thence proceeded to Senekal; the sick and wounded were left in charge of Colonel Pilcher's Column, then on the march to Winburg.

On January 8th, 1901, the 16th Brigade marched from Bloemfield Bridge (between Harrismith and Abertina) to Southey's Hoek, and encamped at Bloemfontein Farm on the top of a kopje two miles south of the station, and on January 21st passed through Harrismith, escorting a large number of waggons for General Boyes, to the Wilge River Bridge.

The following day all the mounted men, with half battalion of Grenadiers, a couple of guns and a pom-pom,

reconnoitred Elands Bridge, and about fifty Boers were seen occupying various positions in small groups. The column was then joined by General Rundle and Staff.

January 23rd saw the column with the convoy on the move again at 5 a.m., but three companies of the Grenadiers and one gun were left behind, as a second column was bringing on later the regimental baggage and supplies then at Ardfulty. The main column marched to Elands Bridge and there met the 17th Brigade on the 24th. Colonel Harley, late Chief Staff Officer of the Division, now took over the command of the Brigade from General Boyes.

On January 13th, the 17th Brigade, whilst proceeding towards Bethlehem, came in contact with a large body of the enemy, with two guns, near Necramo Nek, midway between Senekal and Bethlehem. The convoy was hastily formed up under the cover of a kopje near the Nek, and the artillery and infantry occupied suitable positions on the high features commanding the Nek.

For several hours a rifle and artillery duel was kept up between the opposing forces until about 4 in the afternoon, when an attack was made on the right flank of the Boer position by the West Kent, Glamorgan and Middlesex Companies of Imperial Yeomanry, together with the Manchester Mounted Infantry, all under the command of Colonel Firman. The Boers, however, did not wait to receive the charge, but after firing two or three ineffectual volleys, retired.

By the time our mounted troops had gained the enemy's position the Boers were well away, although several well-directed volleys were sent after them. Our casualties were three men of the South Stafford Regiment wounded. The Boers, however, in their desperate haste, left half a dozen well-equipped horses behind, and three Boers were

captured hiding on the summit of a berg. A dozen Boer ponies were found dead on the enemy's late position, many of these being saddled.

In the evening General Boyes issued a Brigade order, appreciative of the day's work.

On January 24th at noon, a Royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired for the Accession of His Majesty King Edward VII., the troops standing to attention in their lines. After leaving the 2nd East Yorks in position at Elands Bridge, the whole column marched to Elands River, and having reached that place the Grenadiers were left to occupy positions on the east side. The East Yorks had struck tents when the 17th Brigade left, and the Boers, thinking the whole column had left, five of their number came to inspect the camp, but a party of East Yorks who had concealed themselves in a donga, opened fire prematurely, with the result that the Boers got away with a loss of one man wounded, who, however, left his rifle.

On the morning of the 27th the guns of the 17th Brigade were heard, and our infantry and guns were pushed on, but at noon the firing ceased and the rear of the convoy was seen by our advance guard going over the Nek at Tiger's Kloof. We camped at Slangfontein after a very hot day's march, having experienced a violent dust storm which was followed by a little rain.

The following day the column resumed its march at [illegible] a.m., and three squadrons of Yeomanry with a pom-[illegible]m, under Colonel Davenport, were sent to take Jolly [illegible], half a battalion of the Grenadiers with three guns [illegible]ed the advance guard, while half the main body [illegible] East Yorks followed with the convoy. On [illegible]t Jolly Kop forty Boers were seen coming from [illegible]nk. A number of the Yeomanry were at once

despatched to a farm on Long Ridge to the left front, arriving before the enemy, who, being shelled with a pom-pom, retired behind a further ridge to the left front. One gun and a company of Grenadiers were then sent to support Colonel Davenport, who was now occupying the advanced ridge to the left front, and he succeeded in turning their position on Tiger's Kloof.

At this time about one hundred and fifty Boers were seen going from Langberg in the direction of Naauwpoort Nek, and in the meantime a body of the enemy attacked the rear guard, riding to within five hundred yards. In this action Sergeant-Major McLaren of the Stafford Yeomanry was severely wounded in the foot by a Mauser bullet at long range. On approaching Wit Kop, the kopje opposite to it on the left flank was found to be occupied by the enemy, who opened fire on the advance guard. This position, however, was turned by the Yeomanry, which result allowed the column to proceed to Wit Kop, where it encamped for the night.

On the 29th the column reached Bethlehem, handing over the supplies to the garrison, but not without experiencing further sniping and rather heavy firing from a number of the enemy, who were secreted in a donga to the right rear of the column.

On the last day of the month Colonel Harley, with the 17th Brigade, marched at 5 a.m. on the Senekal Road, and General Campbell's column followed two hours later, going in the same direction for about two miles, when it turned off to the left flank of Harley's force and held the enemy, numbering about three hundred, at Retief's and Slabbert's Neks. Several of the high kopjes between Bethlehem and Slabbert's Nek were occupied by small parties of Boers, who kept up a fire on the advanced guard and left-flank patrols, as well

as on the Yeomanry who were rounding up the farms on the line of march. All kraals and farms were visited, and large quantities of grain and provisions were brought into the column.

On February 1st the column marched shortly after noon, and at the end of the day brought in many women and children, sheep and cattle, besides destroying all stacks of wheat and grain found on the farms.

The Memorial Service held on the day of the funeral of Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, took place on Saturday, February 2nd, at Harrismith, and was very largely attended. Nearly every store in town was draped with black and purple. The decorations in front of the Town Hall, where the service was held, were elaborate.

The time announced for the service was 10 a.m., but long before then the military assembled on the square. The following regiments, Eighth Division, were represented :—Imperial Yeomanry, Tempest's Scouts, Royal Field Artillery, Royal Garrison Artillery, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, details of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, also details left in Harrismith from the various regiments of the Division.

These troops formed up on three sides of a square, facing the clergy and choir, who were on a raised platform.

Lieut.-General Sir Leslie Rundle and Staff occupied the centre of the square. Among the members of the Staff were :—Colonels Morrison, Tudway, May, Blair and Pratt ; Majors Wood and Morony ; Captains Masterson, Ward, Webber and Lord Kensington.

All the ministers of the town, including the Rev. E. St. C. Hill, Army Chaplain, assisted in the proceedings.

By 9.45 everything was ready and the solemn proceedings commenced. The singing was led by the combined church choirs assisted by a few friends. The following was the order of the service:—

"Dead March" by the Drums and Fifes.
Hymn I.: "Brief life is here our portion."
Opening sentences of the Burial Service.
Psalms cxx. and cxxx., chanted.
Lesson. I. Cor., xv., 20.
Hymn II.: "When our heads are bowed with woe."
Prayers.
Hymn III.: "Now the labourer's task is o'er."

At 10 o'clock 81 guns were fired from Johannesburg Hill (Harrismith).

The service was marked by deep solemnity, and all felt keenly the loss which they had sustained and which they had met together to mourn.

"A thousand claims to reverence closed
In her, as mother, wife, and queen."

On February 2nd, General Campbell's column resumed its march on Leeuwpoort, rounding up kraals and securing large quantities of mealies. A party of Boers were noticed on the kopjes over Leeuwpoort, but they retired on being shelled by our pom-pom and on the advance of the Yeomanry.

Firing began the following day almost immediately after leaving camp, and farms and outhouses in Viljon's Hoek were visited and burned by the mounted troops, who at times were under heavy fire.

At Bloomfield a German named Kranz stated that a proclamation had been issued by C. De Wet to the effect that all burghers who had given up arms and who did

not clear out of their farms with stock before the arrival of the English would have it confiscated and their farms burned by the Boers.

During the day the Yeomanry were engaged with twenty or thirty Boers on the right flank, taking one prisoner and killing and wounding several others. Our rear and left-rear were also attacked, coming under a hot fire just prior to reaching camp.

From our prisoners we learned that the Boers at Tiger's Kloof on October 22nd and at Langberg were under the command of Prinsloo, a brother of the Prinsloo captured at Slaapkranz.

Owing to the rear guard action the troops arrived late in camp and were thoroughly tired out with the long and harassing day's march.

On February 4th the rounding up of farms was continued, and each day enormous quantities of grain were brought in to the camp. This was an oppressively hot day, and the march was opposed throughout on both flanks and front. As the column was approaching our camping ground at Leeukui, they were attacked sharply on the right flank by a party of Boers occupying a ridge, and who succeeded in hitting five or six horses of the Yeomanry. However, they made good practice for our guns and pom-pom, and eventually were driven off. Rain fell heavily throughout the night, and the morning broke with a thick mist, and with it the enemy came into action on the right, but were beaten off by the Yeomanry. About two miles from the camp there was a deep decline with a spruit to cross. A race between a large body of Boers and the Yeomanry for a kopje on the left, ended in the latter securing this position, and a squadron was sent to reinforce them. Shortly afterwards the enemy attacked from a ridge in front and right-

front, and the Yeomanry advanced supported by two companies of Grenadiers and a gun. The Boers fell back, but maintained a heavy fire from a mealie field on the advancing Yeomanry, compelling them to retire. At this stage, Trooper Davis of the Leicester Imperial Yeomanry was killed, and another trooper was shot through the thigh. The Grenadiers and gun then advanced and drove off the enemy, who left two men wounded. The Boers had been largely reinforced, and at this time there were round the column quite three hundred, who kept up a running fight from every available position. The column encamped at Holland after a hard day's work, and Trooper Davis was buried at 6.30 p.m. Many farms were burned under fire, and a quantity of freshly made bullets were found on one farm, and a number of rifles at the bottom of a neighbouring pond.

Rain again fell throughout the night, but in the morning all four guns were in position and with a pom-pom opened a heavy fire on the positions in front, clearing the ridges of the enemy and enabling the column to proceed with but slight opposition to Wilge River, where a difficult drift, with high, steep and soft banks on either side, had to be negotiated. The river was in flood with broken banks, which had to be repaired by the Engineers, so that the crossing was delayed until 11 a.m. All waggons had to be double and in many cases treble spanned, the trek-chains frequently breaking. This caused serious delay, for the river was gradually rising, and towards evening it was so high as to cover the waggons. Three companies of the Grenadiers remained on the east bank with two guns and a squadron of Yeomanry. The rest of the troops had crossed earlier and had taken up a position on a ridge commanding the drift. The rear guard guns and Yeomanry were brought

over about 7 p.m., and the remaining waggons were brought close to the river bank. The work of crossing went on until 11 p.m., when it had to be discontinued owing to the extreme darkness of the night.

At daybreak crossing recommenced, but a thick mist arose in which the enemy sniped some of the pickets, but were silenced by a maxim gun which had been placed in position previously. At 7 a.m. it cleared, and the crossing was completed, every one having worked hard, cutting branches of trees and brushwood and placing bags of mealies down the decline to facilitate the crossing. A squadron of Yeomanry reconnoitred the road for the next march, and several parties of Boers were observed by them. Sniping the pickets was carried on even after darkness had set in, and in the early morning a Boer spy was surprised and captured while approaching one of the pickets in his stockinged feet.

On the 8th the day opened with a fine, bright morning, which developed into a very hot day. Many Boers were seen on the ridge to the right of the column, and were shelled by a fifteen pounder and our pom-pom ; the rear-guard gun also came into action and silenced the snipers who had commenced firing on the column as it moved off, indeed, during the march, upwards of a hundred Boers hung tenaciously on the right flank and rear. The left flank and advanced guard of Yeomanry were also engaged, and before arriving in camp at Holspruit the enemy came under heavy fire from the advanced mounted troops and guns, and must have had many casualties, for they had anticipated that the column would have marched by the road under a ridge of hills ; but the column kept practically out of range of their positions, marching over the veldt in a line for Pram Kop.

The following morning a very thick mist delayed the

start, but four guns were in position ready to shell a high ridge in front which had to be taken before the convoy could advance. When the mist lifted a few of the enemy were seen and shells were then placed over the ridge at 4,000 yards, and under cover of the artillery the Yeomanry advanced, riding up the hill in gallant style, with four companies of the Grenadiers on the right flank so as to form to the left for attack, while the convoy moved on the right for some distance. The Yeomanry were received from over the crest by a very hot fire, but dismounting, rushed the position in four or five places coming within 50 yards of the enemy. Captain J. B. Seely, of the Hants Yeomanry, was among the first to reach the crest and the greatest praise is due to the Yeomanry and Grenadiers for the splendid manner in which they took this strong position. It had been defended by sangars and trenches, and broken kraals, the enemy holding them so tenaciously that our guns could not help at the final attack. Shortly after the enemy opened fire from Pram Kop, but as we held the hill on the left the convoy was able to keep out of range, and marching over the veldt it arrived safely at David's Vlei. At one of the farms visited during the day another lot of bullet moulds and freshly cast bullets was discovered.

On the 11th the column reached Vrede, the enemy indulging in their usual sniping tactics on the way. The town had been put in an excellent state of defence with trenches and earthworks by the Leinsters, who had suffered considerably from a severe epidemic of enteric fever, having lost between October 14th and February 10th, no fewer than two officers and thirty-three N.C.O.'s and men.

On the 12th all the inhabitants were ordered to leave

Vrede with the column, and Colonel Martin, with the Leinster Regiment, proceeded along the Standerton Road, shelling a favourite kopje which the Boers always held when convoys left Vrede. No serious opposition was encountered until reaching Goedgedacht, which was shelled, causing the enemy to disperse, many coming under fire of the pom-pom in the open. The enemy were again shelled from a high ridge above the drift at Guisplaats, and in their hurry abandoned Cape-carts and waggons, one of the latter being hit by a shell from a fifteen-pounder at a range of 4,200 yards. A fall of rain during the night rendered the crossing of the drift the following day very slippery and difficult. A considerable body of the enemy were seen on a kopje near Leeuwpoort Drift. They followed the rear guard to De Lange's Drift, when the whole column crossed with the exception of the East Yorks and the Yeomanry, who remained on the south side for the night.

On the 14th the column reached Standerton at noon. Subsequently the East Yorks took over part of the defences of Standerton, but were almost immediately relieved by the Grenadiers in order that the former regiment might proceed by rail to northern Natal.

During the month of February the 17th Brigade under Colonel Harley marched to Witkop and then on to Morgenzen. Prinsloo's Mill, S.E. of Witkop, was destroyed without opposition by a party of Yeomanry under Colonel Firman. The Brigade then moved to Hammonia, where a mill fitted with steam and water power machinery was destroyed. From thence the column marched to Ficksburg, meeting with slight opposition near Windsor Castle, where some fifty or sixty Boers were seen and dislodged, and who eventually retired towards Commando Nek. Ficksburg was found un-

occupied by the enemy, who had left early in the previous month. At Willow Grange, on the Hammonia-Ficksburg Road, a detachment was left, together with a gun and a few mounted men, while a strong patrol under Colonel Firman reconnoitred the country west and south-west of Ficksburg, but found the country clear of any large body of the enemy. A convoy sent to Hammonia with a strong escort, found Boers posted at Boyesburg to prevent the waggons being loaded at the mill, but after being shelled they retired, leaving behind them one of their wounded. Small mobile columns were sent from time to time into the country, and large parties of the enemy were seen in the neighbourhood of Moulman's Hoek and Gouverneur's Kop. Klip Nek was visited and Hibernia Mill destroyed, our operations being watched by Boer scouts, who, however, did not show up in any force, but contented themselves with sniping at those on the extreme flanks. On the 13th the first market was held in Ficksburg, and the natives from Basutoland were allowed to cross the drift to sell farm produce.

The following places were also visited by the detachments: Brandwater Basin, General's Nek (occupied after three hours' fighting), Fouriesburg, Bester's Vlei, Brindisi Drift and Thlotse.

During these operations the Brigade's Head Quarters remained at Ficksburg, while the smaller columns rounded up farms, bringing in to Head Quarters large supplies of grain, as well as destroying mills, which in many cases were in full working order.

On March 1st the Albertina patrols were engaged with a strong party of Boers from Platberg Farm, who were intent on damaging the line.

On the 8th, part of the railway on the Harrismith-Van Reenen Railway was blown up by the Boers,

evidently with the intention of wrecking the supply train which leaves Van Reenen at 5 a.m. daily.

The Harrismith Volunteer Light Horse were at once dispatched to drive away several parties of the Boers who were still in the neighbourhood. This Volunteer Light Horse was raised in January, 1901, and was composed of about eighty of the male residents of Harrismith, under the command of Captain Hawkins of the Commercial Hotel, with Sergeant Gwynne of the Hants Imperial Yeomanry as Sergeant-Instructor. Several of its members had seen active service previously in Natal. Nearly all the corps were good shots, and besides being experienced horsemen were well acquainted with the country in the vicinity of the town.

The regiment was raised to operate chiefly within the townlands and as an auxiliary force in the defence of Harrismith.

However, they were frequently called upon to do considerably more than this, and repeatedly rendered valuable aid in co-operating with the regular troops in attacking concentrations of the enemy, who were a continual source of trouble to the garrison of Harrismith.

General Campbell's force left Standerton at the beginning of the month to relieve the Leinster Regiment at Vrede, which was evacuated on the 10th; but the heavy and continuous rains rendered the roads and drifts almost impassable, while to add to the difficulties of the march, three hundred Boers persistently engaged his rear-guard. At De Langes Drift (Klip River) the water rose to ten feet, and after delaying the force for several days, rafts had to be constructed on which the guns were conveyed, while the waggons with provisions and transport animals, had to be floated across.

On the 15th, Trooper McDoughal, of the Yeomanry draft which had just arrived in South Africa, was

drowned whilst bathing in the flooded Wilge River, and a Dutchman, Jocobus Johannes De Jager by name, having been tried and found guilty of murdering natives, was sentenced to death and hanged in the civil gaol: the first Dutchman hanged in Harrismith on the capital charge.

This man was but one of many that had been making short shift of these Kaffirs who had aided our troops. He was fortunately taken prisoner in the district, and the charge against him was fully substantiated by native witnesses. The excellence of the Boer intelligence system was a noticeable feature throughout the war, and was to a large extent based exclusively on the services of the natives, whose kraals dotted the country, and who thus formed ready made pickets. This fact, unfortunately, was late in being realised by us, but now the Boers fully know that we can make as much use as they can of the natives, hence these murders.

The general health of the troops of the Division was very low at the end of March, and that terrible scourge —enteric fever—was claiming a large number of victims, as the following figures show:—

Place.	*Total Sick.*	*Enteric Cases.*	*Date.*
Harrismith	248	123	31-3-01
Ficksburg	86	47	25-3-01
Bethlehem	93	77	26-3-01
As compared with:—			
Harrismith	206	112	15-3-01
Ficksburg	95	44	12-3-01
Bethlehem	111	84	10-3-01

There is not the least doubt that a very large number of enteric and dysentery cases was due to the plague of flies which infested the country. From the refuse pits and latrines they swarmed to the not far distant bivouacs and tents, where they sheltered for the night, covering the inside canvas in myriads.

Food was frequently and carelessly exposed, and was literally covered with these pests, while a goodly percentage fell into the camp-kettles of meat and coffee. The cause and effect are obvious.

Speaking to old residents of the country, they told me they could not call to mind any previous experience like it, and attributed it to the thousands of carcases of horses, mules and oxen, lying putrefying on the veldt and in the townlands.

Naturally this epidemic of dysentery and enteric was most deadly in standing camps; troops constantly on trek undoubtedly enjoyed far and away better health.

As to the drinking water, it became contaminated both in standing camps and on the march; dying cattle invariably made for neighbouring water, with the result that a large number of water-courses were polluted, and became death-traps for passing troops.

The surest way out of the difficulty was to avoid all water which had not been boiled; to make the tea or coffee suffice, and when on the march to rest contented with rinsing the mouth out occasionally. Ignore these precautions and you run the serious risk of an attack by this awful disease—enteric.

As to the efficacy or otherwise of inoculation, little can be said at present; inoculation was entirely optional, and as far as my observation went, few availed themselves of it—perhaps less than ten per cent. However, we may learn something from statistics when they are published.

On leaving Standerton at the end of March, the Grenadier Guards proceeded by rail to Ladysmith, from which place they marched to Harrismith.

On April 2nd, however, a commando reported to be five hundred strong, pushed through the border of the Orange River Colony to the neighbourhood of Laing's Nek and Mquela, with the object of holding up a supply train. Their scene of action was at the bend of the line about three quarters of a mile north of Mount Prospect Station. Having allowed two down empty trains to pass, the Boers dynamited the line in readiness for the first up supply train which left Mount Prospect. This was about 4 a.m. On the engine touching the spot where the dynamite was laid, it and one truck were thrown off, one truck and the van standing on the rails. The supplies consisted for the most part of flour. Parker, the engine driver, was made prisoner, while the fireman, along with the guard, Greenwood, jumped off on the other side and lay hidden in the long grass. The noise of the explosion was, of course, clearly heard at Mount Prospect Station, where fortunately, nearly two companies of the 2nd Grenadier Guards were waiting for the train to proceed ; whether the Boers were aware of it or not, they, however, knew that some trains would be standing at the station, and with a view to creating as much confusion as possible, they detached the guard's van of the wrecked train and sent it down the incline. It crashed, as it happened, into the end of a stationary troop train, and as it was travelling at some speed the van was smashed ; fortunately, however, little or no damage was done to the train itself. In the meantime the Boers were removing bags of flour up the hill, the captured driver being forced to assist. Troops were immediately dispatched from the station to check the

Boers in their work of destruction, for, finding it impossible to remove all the anticipated booty, they had already set fire to the remainder of the flour. A sharp exchange of firing resulted in the looting party abandoning their work and retreating round the bend of the hill, rejoining the main body, as it afterwards appeared, on the heights above the line.

Early intimation of the outrage having been wired to Newcastle, trains carrying troops, both infantry and artillery, along with a breakdown gang, were hurried to the scene of action. In the meantime, however, the Grenadiers, assisted by our guns at Laing's Nek, had, for the second time, come into action, and an engagement lasting several hours ensued, with the result that the enemy retreated leaving two dead and three wounded, our own losses being nil.

The driver of the captured train was afterwards released by the Boers after they had stripped him of nearly everything, including his boots and watch.

Owing to the smart action of the Grenadiers, the enemy did not succeed in carrying off the flour, which they were obliged to leave on the veldt as they rapidly retired towards Lang Kranz and Quagga Nek.

O'Neill, of 1881 fame, a farmer resident near Majuba, in the vicinity of the outrage, was arrested, a large quantity of coffee being found in his house ready for use.

CHAPTER IX.

More Brandwater Basin — Monument to the Eighth Division —Enteric Victims — Rounding up Farms — Theron's Mill — De Wet's Address to Free Staters—Golden Gate—The Langberg—Great Haul of Stock—Distribution of Troops—Operations on the Wilge River.

DURING March and April the 17th Brigade was still operating in the Ficksburg District.

On the 2nd March, Colonel Firman, with a small Force, reconnoitred towards Hammonia and Governor's Kop in conjunction with a second Force under Major Perceval, proceeding by Mitchell's Mills, and along the western side of the hills leading to Hammonia.

The two Forces swept all the hills west of Hammonia, and secured a large quantity of cattle, sheep, and a few horses, afterwards returning together by the Poort. The usual parties of Boers were seen on the march, but made off as the Forces advanced.

From time to time many small parties of prisoners captured by the Boers came in to our camp from Basutoland, having been put over the Border near Fouriesburg.

On the 7th the Brigade left Ficksburg and moved through Basutoland to Peka, proceeding to Putiatsana River. The weather was now very bad, continuous rain rendering travelling exceedingly difficult. Putiatsana Drift was crossed after three hours' hard work, and

the exhausted transport animals were outspanned at Teya Teyaneng, but the column again marched off in the afternoon, finally camping for the day at a Drift near Berea Mission.

Rain continued throughout the following day, and the Force encamped near the town of Maseru.

On the 11th the column crossed the Caledon and encamped in the Orange River Colony, but it took the whole day to get the transport over, owing to the soft muddy and slippery condition of the banks and the swollen state of the river.

Zwartzlaagte was reached the following day, and on the 13th the column joined Colonel Oakes' Force at Warringham's, Leeuw River. Part of the Brigade was holding the line—Leeuw River-Eden Nek-Thaban'chu. Communication was established with various columns operating in the neighbourhood, among them being—Thorneycroft's, Bruce Hamilton's, Maxwell's and Pilcher's. Dutch families were received from the last-mentioned, and forwarded to Thaban'chu. The weather was still very unsettled, rain falling in torrents and causing great difficulties to the transport.

After handing over the defences to the Black Watch and the Bedford Regiments, the Brigade moved to the eastern bank of the Leeuw River, and from thence to Commissie Poort, Hoogfontein, and Modder Poort, reaching Clocolan on April 1st, and spending the following day in clearing out large stores of grain.

On the following day, April 2nd, when crossing the Maperi River, in flood, Trooper Boughton (34th Imperial Yeomanry) was unfortunately drowned whilst gallantly attempting to save his comrade, Kennard, of the 36th Imperial Yeomanry, who also was drowned. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his

life for his friends." His comrades have fittingly placed his heroic act on record in his parish church, Lodsworth, Sussex.

On the 3rd, Lieut. Barker, of the South Staffords, was wounded near Ficksburg, and on the following day, April 4th, the Boers attacked the camp near Clocolan, at 2 a.m., having crept stealthily up under cover of darkness towards the outposts. Firing continued until daybreak, and during the action Lieut. Edwards (35th Imperial Yeomanry), Corpl. Ralli and Trooper Spicer were hit, while several horses and transport animals were killed. To make matters worse, a number of remount horses stampeded and were lost; patrols were sent out at break of day to endeavour to recover them, but only a few were brought in.

The Brigade then marched to Ficksburg, and after meeting with slight opposition on the left flank, reached the town amid drenching rain. Here the 1st Worcesters took over the defences on the west of the town and on Imperani Mountain from the 1st South Staffords.

During the rest of the month the Brigade was engaged in clearing the farms of grain, and in reconnoitring and clearing the Boer strongholds of Zud Kop, July's Kraal, Aprikos Kop and Franz Hoek. Colonel Firman's Force was strongly opposed by the enemy at Windsor Castle and Aprikos Kop on April 24th, who were only dislodged from their strong position by heavy shell fire and a wide turning movement. Our casualties were two South Staffords killed and three wounded, including Captain Blackwood, beside a number of horses killed.

As a result of these operations of the 17th Brigade, immense quantities of stock, grain, and provisions were

collected or destroyed in the fertile but difficult country, and many Boers were accounted for, either as killed, wounded, or as prisoners.

On April 12th, 1901, the following appeared in Divisional Orders:—

"The Lieut.-General thinks you will like to know that on Easter Day, 1901, wreaths and flowers were placed by members of the Women's League on the graves of all those of the Eighth Division who lie buried in the Harrismith Cemetery.

The Lieut.-General has written to the Rector of Harrismith asking him to thank the League for this kindly thought, which he feels will appeal to all hearts."

It is gratifying to state that a monumental obelisk has now been placed in the Harrismith Cemetery, to the memory of all men of the Eighth Division who sacrificed their lives in South Africa to the service of their country.

Each of the units of the Division finds a place on the four sides of the column.

The cost of erecting this monument has been defrayed from the proceeds of the concerts held in the Town Hall, from time to time, for the benefit of the troops which garrisoned the town during the war.

At Bethlehem on April 3rd, part of the garrison made an attack on a number of the enemy just outside the town, killing one and wounding three others. The natives living on the outskirts, having complained bitterly of being ill-treated and robbed by the Boers, were brought in with their stock and grain, and placed under the protection of the garrison.

On the following day Colonel Harley returned to Ficksburg with his mobile column, having co-operated

with General Tucker for the last three weeks. On his return he had assisted Colonel Pilcher in clearing the Clocolan District, bringing into the town Boer families, with the usual large number of horses and cattle; his camp was attacked twice by the enemy, who, however, were driven off with loss, our casualties amounting to six or seven wounded.

At Harrismith a patrol of the 2nd Wilts New Yeomanry engaged a considerable number of the enemy concealed a little beyond the Yeomanry outposts to the south-west of the town, apparently on the look-out to raid cattle grazing near the townlands; on the Wilts being reinforced by a squadron of the Glamorgans, the enemy retired after a hot fire, towards Reitz.

In the neighbourhood of Ficksburg, Colonel Firman was busy on the 15th in clearing the country of the enemy and supplies, and was in touch with a considerable force at extreme range, towards Governor's Kop.

On the 13th the Grenadier Guards took over the Harrismith Defences, while the 2nd Scots Guards, with four guns and the whole of the mounted troops, marched out to Wilge River Bridge.

On the following day Colonel Blair, in conjunction with the Harrismith Light Horse under Captain Hawkins, made a reconnaissance in the direction of Mount Paul, but beyond finding evidence of small parties of Boers having visited Glenlennie and Badenhorst Farms, nothing of importance was discovered. On withdrawing, a party of Boers opened fire from Mount Paul, and Lieut. Robertson was slightly wounded.

The health of the troops still continued to be indifferent, the number of sick in Harrismith on April 15th

being 235, although the ambulance train took away 51 cases on the 7th.

Enteric.			
In Harrismith	...	121	April 15th
In Bethlehem	...	52	April 8th
In Ficksburg	...	37	April 11th
As compared with.			
Harrismith	...	123	March 31st
Bethlehem	...	71	March 26th
Ficksburg	...	47	March 26th

On the 16th Colonel Harley's Force engaged a body of Boers near July's Kraal and drove them out of position. They were found to be concentrating south-west of Reitz with the probable object of moving on Fouriesburg.

On the 21st, General Rundle, with the following column, left Wilge River Bridge:—Yeomanry, 2nd Scots Guards, 2nd East Yorks, 1st Leinsters (part), Volunteer Company of 1st Staffords, four guns 79th Battery, two guns 77th Battery, the cow gun, and a pom-pom. About forty Boers who held the hills round the bridge, sniped the Yeomanry, but were easily dispersed. On the 22nd, Slangfontein was reached—three miles beyond Georgina. The following day the column left camp in a very thick mist. A party of Yeomanry who went out to relieve the Infantry night outposts, were fired into at short range from a mealie field, but dismounting they returned the fire, killing one Boer. They lost, however, one killed and three wounded. The head of the column halted at Tigers Kloof, but finding the hills strongly held and the weather too misty to be able to do any effective work, the column halted, allowing the rear of the convoy to close up. On the mist

rising, the Boers were found to be holding a strong position in a kloof on the south side of the Bridge, and also the kopje round Ovendal's Farm. Two companies of the Scots Guards and two guns were sent against the kloof, and after a few rounds from the cow-gun the remainder of the Force, except those required for the safety of the convoy, crept along the ridges leading to the drift by Ovendal's Farm. After a short resistance the Boers rode off and the column bivouacked at Tigers Kloof. Our casualties during the day were :—Farrier J. Wilson (Wilts Imperial Yeomanry) killed, Trooper Kirth mortally wounded, and six others wounded.

On the 24th, the column left Tigers Kloof at 6 a.m., but was not opposed until it reached Villier's Rust. Here the hills around the farm and the Wit-Kopjes were held by two or three hundred Boers. The Yeomanry on the right flank and rear became somewhat heavily engaged, but after sharp fighting the enemy were driven off and the convoy proceeded, the Boers falling back to the Langberg and the hills on the north side of the bridge near Bethlehem. During the action Trooper Johnson of the 62nd Company Imperial Yeomanry was killed. The Divisional Head Quarters moved into Bethlehem, leaving General Campbell's Force at the bridge. On the 26th, General Campbell's column also moved into Bethlehem, and the Force formed in two columns, the right column going southwards, threatening the roads to Retief and Naauwpoort Neks, while the left column moved south-east to destroy an important steam mill near the Langberg Range. This mill was blown up with gun cotton, and large quantities of grain found in it were destroyed. Towards the end of the day a large body of the enemy was seen hovering

in the neighbourhood, but they kept well dispersed and offered no serious resistance.

On the 27th General Campbell's column marched off at 6 a.m. to destroy Van der Merwe's Mill, a few miles to the south-east of Bethlehem. A good deal of opposition was met with from the enemy, who not only commanded the approach to the mill but were also well posted on the Langberg. A large quantity of flour was found in the mill, and the engine was working when the Force arrived. After destroying the mill and its contents the troops returned to Bethlehem with five casualties. Colonel Reay's column also returned to Bethlehem, having moved in a south-westerly direction, working on the right flank of Campbell's Force and threatening Naauwpoort Nek.

On the following day Campbell's Force marched out of camp in a south-westerly direction with Colonel Reay's Force, which consisted of the Manchesters and a gun, operating on the right flank. Several farms were visited, and the grain in them destroyed, but little opposition was met with, although a considerable force of Boers was seen, evidently under the impression that Naauwpoort Nek was our objective.

On the 29th the column left Bethlehem in heavy rain, and moved towards Retief's Nek, halting on the way at One Tree Farm, while the advanced guard, consisting of the Manchester Regiment, a squadron of Yeomanry, with two guns and a pom-pom, advanced to reconnoitre the position. At noon the main body advanced, securing all the important positions on the right leading to the Nek, and safely passing through just before nightfall.

A dense fog the following day prevented the column moving off earlier than noon. Colonel Reay's Force then made a wide detour towards Snyman's Hoek, taking

everything which offered supplies to the Boers, and at night camped with the main column at Stenekamp Kop.

On the whole the weather for the month was fine, with chilly nights and morning mists, and the health of the column, which numbered about 2,500, was fair. We had to leave about thirty sick at Bethlehem, including ten men wounded on the line of march.

On May 1st, the 17th Brigade remained at Ficksburg, and while there the patrols brought into camp several Dutch prisoners whose bandoliers, in many cases, contained a large proportion of soft-nosed bullets. Colonel Reay's Force became advanced guard to the main body, which started for Fouriesburg, and on arriving at that town, General Campbell's Force bivouacked on the north side, while Colonel Reay's column remained on the south. Small parties of the enemy, accompanied by women and children, were seen leaving the town, making towards General's Nek. Reay's Force worked its way over very difficult country to the end of Snyman's Hoek, where a small laager was seen. In rounding up the Hoek, in addition to the usual finds of waggons, grain and forage, a gunsmith's workshop, with tools for repairing arms, was discovered and destroyed. During these operations the enemy were seen driving large quantities of stock into the Witkopjes.

On the 4th, the mobile columns of Colonels Romilly and Reay moved out from Fouriesburg, working on parallel lines towards Nelspoort and Witnek, clearing the country of roving bands of Boers, but at the same time keeping touch with one another. While these operations were in progress, the Fouriesburg garrison was busily employed in entrenching and putting the town in a secure state of defence.

On the 7th, the town was attacked on two sides in the evening, but the enemy were easily driven off after an hour's fighting.

May 7th, General Rundle and Staff, with Reay's column, marched out of Fouriesburg, leaving General Campbell behind with the East Yorks, two companies of the Leinsters, a few mounted men, and two guns. The Force marched to Brindisi, where the Fouriesburg refugees were sent through Basutoland to Ficksburg, while Colonel Romilly's column worked on the right flank and seized General's Nek. Colonel Harley, also with a strong force consisting of mounted troops, South Staffords and artillery, moved out of Ficksburg, and seizing Commando Nek, closed it from the south. During the march several waggons were discovered loaded with Mauser and Martini ammunition. Many reaping and thrashing machines, as well as other agricultural implements, were destroyed, apparently only recently used by the hundreds of Boers infesting this mountainous country ; their tactics were to snipe at long ranges, having placed their scouts on the summits of all commanding positions, thereby making surprise and capture next to impossible.

On the 8th the Divisional Head Quarters, with Reay's column, marched to General's Nek, joining Romilly's column. At Franz Hoek and the country behind Bamboos Nek, a large body of Boers was located. The latter place was held by about a hundred of the enemy, and was attacked by Reay's Force from the front, while a small force under Colonel Harley, who had come from Commando Nek, worked along the hills to the south of the Nek. About 2 p.m., the Boers were driven off, retiring towards Franz and Moolman's Hoeks, leaving a considerable number of cattle and sheep behind them.

After leaving blocking forces behind at General's and Commando Neks, the columns bivouacked at Bamboos Nek. The following day, Steyn's Farm (belonging to the Ex-President's brother), was visited, and the mill, which was fitted with a new steam-engine, was destroyed, together with all supplies in the Hoek. Colonel Harley's column returned to Ficksburg, while Reay's Force held Commando Nek.

Surrendered Boers stated that ammunition as well as clothing was short, and that Prinsloo's whole commando, including small parties, numbered about 800.

On the 13th, Reay's column and the Force under Colonel Raitt, left Commando Nek for Brindisi Drift, and on the 15th the whole column marched to Fouriesburg.

The following day the Force split up into four columns with the object of attacking a considerable number of the enemy holding Theron's Mill; this mill, like others in the district, was in full working order, and had been supplying flour and mealie meal to the Boers in its vicinity. The entire Force was divided as follows:—

(1) Under Lieut.-Col. Keir, Imperial Yeomanry.—150 Imperial Yeomanry, two companies of the Leinsters, 1 gun and 1 pom-pom, detachment of Bearer Company.

(2) Under Col. Reay.—2nd Manchester Regiment, Manchester Mounted Infantry, Detachment of Bearer Company, with a section of Engineers for road-making.

(3) Under Col. Harley.—11th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, four guns R.F.A., South Stafford Regiment, 1 pom-pom, Detachment of Engineers, and R.A.M.C.

Number 4 column was held in reserve under Colonel Romilly, and consisted of some Imperial Yeomanry with the 2nd Scots Guards, a 15-pounder, and the cow-

gun. Keir's Force barred the exit from Inhoek, and Colonel Reay's worked along the ridges on the north side of the mill, while Colonel Harley's attacked from the south-east; approximately the enemy numbered four hundred, and were occupying a strong position on the numerous kopjes and high ridges commanding the approach to the mill. The Imperial Yeomanry were unable to turn the enemy's left flank, which was strongly held and which rested on a high feature on the bank of the Caledon River. This position, however, was eventually taken and held with the aid of a company of Scots Guards. The South Staffords attacked the enemy's main position, compelling the Boers to fall back, although they did not retire until the Staffords had reached within five hundred yards of them. By the middle of the afternoon the mill was reached, and soon afterwards destroyed by dynamite. The Staffords had four casualties, and the whole operations throughout the day, owing to the difficult physical features of the country, entailed heavy work and fatigue on the troops.

On the 17th the columns proceeded to work their way through the very difficult country to Inhoek, the enemy as usual holding the ridges within long rifle range on both sides of the line of march. By the close of the day Reay's Force had occupied Inhoek Farm and the hills on the north side, while the entrance to it, as well as the heights commanding Inhoek, were held by Harley's and Romilly's columns. Attempts were made at night to get some of our troops behind the Boers, but owing to the precipitous mountains and the numerous ravines, as well as the alertness of the Boer scouts, the attempts failed. A laager of about sixty women and children was discovered in the Hoek, besides large quantities of supplies; these were brought away.

The two following days were spent by Colonel Keir's mounted troops in clearing the country inside the Hoek, while Colonel Firman's men cleared the valley to the eastward. The Scots Guards supported the mounted troops as they penetrated well into the interior of the Hoek, while the Leinsters remained in position in the valley with one gun. Waggons were sent to bring away the women, and all forage, grain, or anything that could be of use to the enemy.

The weather had now set in bitterly cold, and the troops on the ridges and high features caught the full blast of the winds which blew across the snow-capped Malutis of Basutoland.

On the 20th the Division marched to Rautenbach's Farm, the 16th Brigade having moved through the hills on the left of the 17th Brigade, while on the route all farms were as usual visited and their grain contents brought away. Nothing of importance occurred on the march, beyond the fact that the Boers from Slapkranz made a feeble attempt to occupy a hill held by two companies of the Scots Guards; but when mounted troops proceeded round either side of the hill and attempted to cut them off, the enemy cleared, after firing a few parting shots.

The following day the columns returned to Fouriesburg for rest and for further supplies, but had Lieut. Bowler, Imperial Yeomanry, wounded before entering the town, and on the 22nd the Leinsters took over the South Staffords' position on the hill east of the town.

On the 23rd the 17th Brigade marched to Brindisi Drift, escorting Boer families and refugees to Middleton's Store, where they were put across the Drift into Basutoland, while the road from Fouriesburg to Brindisi

was guarded by the Manchester Regiment, which took up favourable positions on the hills near Bester's Vlei.

The following day Romilly's Force, consisting of one hundred and fifty Yeomanry, the 2nd Scots Guards, a couple of fifteen pounders of the 79th Battery, and a pom-pom, marched with a few days' supplies to clear the country west and south-west of Fouriesburg, while Colonel Harley's mounted troops co-operated with them from Brindisi Drift.

The weather continued bitterly cold, and rain fell heavily at intervals, making the condition of the tentless troops miserable in the extreme.

A document was found at Fouriesburg which well shows the attitude of the Boer leaders. The following is a translation :—

> "To all officers and burghers of the O.V.S.
>
> Dear Brothers.—From enclosed dispatch which I publish for your information, you will see what the demands of the British Government are, as proposed at the meeting between Lord Kitchener and Commandant-General Louis Botha. Again we have proved our only desire is to have peace, and again our enemy has proved, as plain as day, their only object in this war is to stamp out the Africander Nation, and our own brothers in the Transvaal have given them the only answer which was possible for us to give—namely, that we continue this struggle till our country is free of the enemy. You will see yourselves what is the value of the conditions offered us by the enemy. We shall get a government where the vote of the people at first will not be heard, and later on can be smothered. A sort of payment is offered for goods taken by our com-

mandos from burghers, which will not be half enough, and if the worst happens the enemy will be compelled (as Commandant Botha remarks) according to all laws and rules, when he takes the country, to take also its debts. The sum mentioned by Lord Kitchener is not nearly enough to cover the money circulated by the Z.A.R. alone. Our language will be smothered, although they say both languages will be issued. We all know what is becoming of our language in Natal and the Colony, where the same theory exists and the practice is so different. There would be, Lord Kitchener says, no war tax, but what is to stop them putting on more toll and ground taxes; it is only calling the child by another name; but to be short, what good are all these points, when our only object in this struggle is the independence of the two Republics. On this only, can and will we give up the struggle. Brothers! don't let us lose our faith in the Lord; many costly lives have already been offered up in our great cause, and the Lord in his own time will show us the result. Before I end, I wish to remark that should I and the government be so foolish as to accept Lord Kitchener's terms, I feel confident that the majority of the burghers will not accept, because it means the downfall of the Africander Nation, which is more bitter to think of than the death of every burgher.

"I have the honour to be,

"Your humble servant,

"(Signed) C. R. DE WET.

"Chief Commandant, O.V.S."

On the 27th the defences of Fouriesburg were taken over by part of the 17th Brigade, and early the following morning the 16th Brigade marched with the 1st Battalion Yeomanry, Scots Guards, East Yorks, four guns with a pom-pom, together with the Head Quarters of the Division and the remainder of the 17th Brigade. On approaching Retief's Nek, the troops encamped about two miles to the south of it, while a small force of Yeomanry and two or three companies of infantry, went forward to make a reconnaissance, which proved the Nek to be strongly held by the enemy.

The 16th Brigade then advanced towards the Nek, meeting with strong opposition from the east and west, and the Yeomanry, supported by the Scots Guards, succeeded in occupying the western hill just before dark, while two companies of the East Yorks took the eastern hill with the loss of a few men. The Boers, to the number of three of four hundred, were seen retiring from their late positions, enabling the troops with the convoy to pass safely through the Nek and encamp beyond it. Amongst the casualties was Lieut. Brodie, Scots Guards, slightly wounded.

On the 29th, the 16th Brigade marched off at 8 a.m., one company of the Scots Guards moving along the high ridge to the left of the column. The Boers were making for the kopje on the east of the Nek, but found they had been anticipated by the East Yorks, who proceeded along the ridge running east of the Nek and drove the Boers before them towards Slabbert's Nek and Steynberg. The enemy were all round the column in small numbers throughout the march, keeping up a heavy sniping fire, especially on the rear guard. After a harassing day's march, in which the East Yorks had Captain Soote and one man wounded, the Brigade encamped for the night at Boshof's Farm.

The following day the march was continued under the same sniping conditions as the previous one, the rear and right flank guards coming in for a good deal of attention from the enemy. The positions in the direction of Vaal Kranz were occupied and cleared, at a cost of two casualties to the East Yorks, who had Lieut. Stenhouse and a sergeant wounded. After the day's operations the Brigade encamped at Smallfontein, about six miles from Bethlehem. On the last day of the month the convoy and all the available baggage left for Bethlehem, while the 16th Brigade began a forced march to seize the northern side of Naauwpoort Nek and effect a juncture with the 17th Brigade, who had evacuated Fouriesburg, and were marching via Surrender Hill and Roosa Farm to Naauwpoort Nek. The 16th Brigade, however, was delayed by the enemy, who were holding the hill at Vaal Kranz. Ultimately the Boers were driven from their position by the East Yorks, but owing to the great difficulties of the country, movements were necessarily slow. On arriving within three or four miles of the Nek, a number of waggons and small parties of Boers were seen on the left flank. The Yeomanry were sent forward towards the Nek with the object of cutting them off. The Nek was found to be strongly held, and after a sharp engagement, the position was taken by the Yeomanry galloping for it, compelling the Boers to leave behind them a number of waggons with their teams, beside a considerable number of mixed cattle. During the operations the infantry supported the mounted troops, and the bastions on each side of the Nek were occupied, while the Brigade shortly afterwards encamped for the night about one mile from its mouth.

The natives in the vicinity of the camp complained *bitterly* of the ill-usage they had received at the hands

From a photo by T. F. Andrews, Harrismith.

THE QUEEN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE, HARRISMITH, FEB.

(See p. 155.)

(*See p. 163.*) 15-Pounder Crossing De Lange's Drift (Klip River) on Raft.

(*See p. 163.*) De Lange's Drift (Klip River) when not in Flood.

(See p. 102.) 15-Pounders Crossing De Lange's Drift (Klip River) on Raft.

(See p. 102.) De Lange's Drift (Klip River) some 300 ft. in Width.

(*See p. 171.*) MILITARY FUNERAL IN HARRISMITH CEMETERY.

From a photo by R. D. Harris, Johannesburg. (See p. 184.)

TROOPS HALTING NEAR NAAUWPOORT NEK.

(*See p. 196.*) GROUP OF TYPICAL BOERS.

From a photo by T. F. Andrews, Harrismith. (See p. 208.)

VICKERS-MAXIM OR POM-POM, READY FOR ACTION.

of the roving bands of Boers, who had robbed them of their stock and grain, and in many cases had sjamboked them on the charge of rendering assistance to passing British forces.

During the last four days of the month, General Campbell's troops had continuous guerilla fighting, and owing to the difficulties of transport, a considerable number of the trek oxen died from exhaustion.

In the beginning of May (1901), a large brilliant comet made its appearance for a short while in the north-west. Appearance of comets, showers of shooting stars, and other astronomical phenomena have always been looked on by the Dutch, in common with other peoples, as harbingers of good news or as mysterious tokens of impending evil.

Evidently the Boer Intelligence Officer was seeking to allay any fear of approaching harm to the Boer Commandos when he dispatched the following telegram :—

"From the Intelligence Department, Bloemfontein, to Landdrost of Harrismith. November 13th, 1899, 1 p.m. It is expected that a meteoric shower will take place either to-night, to-morrow-night, or the night after, and it will be visible. As many people are unaware of this phenomenon, and as many people may be concerned about it, it has been thought advisable to make it public."

Both the Brigades spent June 1st and 2nd in clearing Lusthoff and the surrounding Hoeks, and on the 3rd, the Divisional Head Quarters and the 17th Brigade left St. Fort's Farm, marching eastwards, with Colonel Reay's Column on its right flank, while the 16th Brigade, outside Naauwpoort Nek, marched parallel, but in advance of it. The Drift near St. Fort's Farm was very difficult to negotiate, and greatly delayed the

transport, while throughout the day's operations the Boers sniped persistently from the high ridges on the flanks, to which they held tenaciously, until ultimately forced to retire towards Golden Gate. At dusk the 17th Brigade and Colonel Reay's Force encamped together, near Van Zyl's Mill, holding an extensive command of the Caledon Valley.

The following day the column marched off, the Yeomanry pushing through the rugged and picturesque Golden Gate and occupying the hills beyond it, while the Head Quarters and Colonel Reay's Force bivouacked in an opening, halfway through the Gate, the remaining troops encamping at the entrance.

On the 5th, everything was brought through the Gate, and Reay's column, with the Yeomanry, took possession of the high ground commanding Klerk's Vlei, while the Head Quarters of the Division were established at Oldenburg Farm, with the 17th Brigade encamped on the plateau in rear. The Worcester Mounted Infantry, whilst destroying wheat and mealies towards Clocolan, had a sharp engagement with twenty-five of the enemy who opposed them, but with the exception of two or three horses hit, they suffered no further loss. Earlier in the day, however, two Middlesex Yeomen were killed and one South Stafford was wounded.

The whole of the following day was occupied in getting the force to Foster's Farm on Klerk's Vlei, but the road was so precipitous and bad, that large fatigue parties had to be employed in cutting the cliffs and repairing the roads, while in more than one place waggons had to be lowered by heavy drag ropes. To add to the difficulties the five-inch gun broke its trek chain in going up a steep slope, and running backwards, turned over at the bottom, breaking a wheel and bending the axle.

Large quantities of ammunition were discovered among the rocks and at various farms, and the usual haul of horses, cattle and sheep was made. During the march, which could not have exceeded three or four miles, the Boers were sniping the flank and rear guards, but did not succeed in hitting any one.

On the 7th the column moved a few miles further on to Raath's Farm, where a quantity of small arms ammunition and some Krupp shells were found. A good many Boers were seen on the hills in the morning, who sniped at long range.

The following day the column left Raath's Farm for Elands River Drift, passing en route Niekirk's Spruit.

General Campbell's Force had been clearing the Wit-kopjes, and whilst there was visited by its Basuto chief "Mtsani." The Wit-kopjes were well cultivated by the natives, who complained to General Campbell that their crops were stolen by the Boers from time to time, and the chief now asked either to be armed or that his crops should be protected by a British force. The old gentleman was accompanied by a large retinue of servants and dependents, and he, together with about half a dozen of his more important retainers, were entertained by the General; they appeared to particularly relish the whisky, judging from the number of times it passed round. One or two rounds of the 15-pounder gun were fired in the direction of Basutoland, and to his intense delight Mtsani was permitted to fire a round off himself. The Wit-kopjes are an extensive group of formidable steep hills with numerous kloofs; they offer unusual facilities for guerilla fighting.

In the evening the two columns bivouacked near each other by the Drift. It was now determined to clear the Langberg District, a difficult portion of the country

near Bethlehem on the Harrismith-Bethlehem Road and consisting of ranges of hills and kopjes abounding in farms, these being used as storehouses and rendezvous by large numbers of the enemy. With this object in view, Colonel Harley's column moved via Elands River Bridge and Palmietfontein, on the old Bethlehem-Harrismith Road, while General Campbell's troops moved via Elands River Drift, and from thence along the south of the Langberg. The heavier transport of each column moved along the roads, protected by a strong guard, and a force from each column moved on their inner flanks near the Langberg, keeping in touch with one another night and day. With this arrangement the columns moved by short marches, thoroughly clearing the country through which they passed.

General Campbell's Force captured a considerable number of mixed cattle and a large number of sheep, besides several waggons with their spans of oxen.

On the 15th the main column moved to Tweefontein, and large parties of Boers were seen retiring over the hills, driving their stock before them.

On the 16th, three companies of the Staffords, four companies of the Manchesters, with some Yeomanry, two 15-pounders, a pom-pom and the cow-gun, marched to Cloite's Farm to seize the north-east end of the Langberg ; little opposition was met with, but numbers of the enemy were seen going towards De Villier's Rust. General Campbell's Force then moved to Sebastopol, while the Head Quarters and Colonel Harley's troops bivouacked at Klein Bloemhof Farm, and the mounted troops at De Villier's Farm. A small quantity of Mauser ammunition was found among the rocks at Bloemhof Farm.

On the 17th General Campbell's Force moved to the

south-east end of Langberg, and Colonel Harley's column spent the day clearing the farms in the vicinity, and on the following day the Head Quarters moved into Bethlehem, while Colonel Harley's column remained at the bridge over Liebenberg's Vlei, and General Campbell bivouacked his column near Van der Merwe's Mill.

On the 19th, the 16th Brigade moved to the Bridge over Liebenberg Vlei, detaching the East Yorks to augment the Bethlehem garrison, which till then had consisted of the 1st Wilts and 3rd Gloster Yeomanry, a section of the 79th Battery with detachments of the engineers, and the R.A.M.C., all under the command of Colonel Inglefield, of the East Yorks.

The following day a small column under Colonel Reay was dispatched south-west of Bethlehem, with the object of bringing in all civilians who were not capable of supplying themselves with food for any length of time; little opposition was met with beyond the usual sniping.

On the 21st, Colonel Harley moved by Palmietfontein, and General Campbell by Elands River Drift, clearing the country between them. The result of this day's operations was the capture of a large number of horses, mixed cattle and sheep, in addition to the destruction or capture of huge quantities of grain, forage, waggons, etc. A water-mill in excellent order, and supplied with the latest machinery, was also destroyed. Casualties on both sides were about fourteen or fifteen.

The following day (22nd) the 16th Brigade marched en route for Tiger's Kloof, while Colonel Harley's column with the Divisional Head Quarters, left two or three hours later for Schalk's Farm, situated a short distance from the upper end of the Kloof.

The next day was spent by both columns in clearing the surrounding country, the Divisional Head Quarters with Harley's column moving to Elands River Bridge. A commando of about a hundred Boers, occupying the hills above Tweefontein, was shelled, and after leaving several of their killed and wounded behind, retired in the direction of Golden Gate. General Campbell's Force was engaged the greater part of the day with a strong body of the enemy; to add to the difficulties of the operations, the grazing ground between Bethlehem and Harrismith was fired, and became a desolation of charred veldt. Harley's column bivouacked for the night at Elands River Bridge, while the 16th Brigade encamped at Georgina. A party of about a hundred mounted men, consisting of Yeomanry and the Harrismith Light Horse under Major Peacock, made a large capture of stock from the Uitzicht Basin, driving the Boer patrols, which were guarding them, to the hills. S. M. Reed, 11th Battalion Yeomanry, especially distinguished himself by keeping a dozen Boers at bay whilst a large number of sheep were being rounded up by our men. This gallant N.C.O. subsequently fell in action at Tweefontein on December 25th, 1901.

The following morning Harley's column moved to Wilge River Bridge, and the Yeomanry proceeded to Harrismith for re-organisation. General Campbell's Force marched to Ardtully.

A native deserter from the Boer camp at Nelson's Kop, reported the presence there of Ex-President Steyn with about three hundred Boers and one gun. With them were many Boer families that had been driven in that direction by one of our columns from the Reitz Road.

On the 26th the 16th Brigade moved to Wilge River Bridge and encamped near Harley's column.

During the early part of June, Generals Rundle, Campbell and Colonel Harley bade farewell to the old contingent of Yeomanry. The General in an appropriate speech expressed entire satisfaction with the excellent work done by them, mentioning too, the fact that the Eighth Division was formed without cavalry, and that therefore they had been called upon to do much arduous work, and how well they had accomplished their task under the most difficult circumstances.

Referring to the death of their gallant officer at Senekal—Major Dalbiac—General Rundle spoke of the splendid example which that officer had set to the Imperial Yeomanry at the beginning of their active service—an example which had been so well followed by his comrades.

After the close of the address, the Yeomanry marched past, and subsequently entrained at Harrismith en route for home.

The following is a summary of the results of General Rundle's operations in the Brandwater Basin and neighbourhood during the period, April-June, 1901. Taken or destroyed: 7,000 tons of grain, flour and forage, 1,400 head of cattle, over 20,000 sheep and goats, 1,450 horses, 8,300 rounds S.A. ammunition, 101 rounds gun ammunition, 75 packets of dynamite, 25 rifles, 228 waggons and carts. The following mills were destroyed: Asvogel Krans, Franz Hoek, Theron's Mill, Van Zyl's Mill. Innumerable ovens, threshing machines, etc., were broken. Seven men and 260 women and children were brought in to the Concentration Camps. From reports received the Boer losses were 53 killed and wounded.

The following Divisional Order appeared :—

Harrismith,

June 9th, 1901.

Sir Leslie Rundle has great satisfaction in publishing to the troops under his command the following extract from a telegram addressed to him by Lord Kitchener. "Very glad to hear of success of your combined movements. This good work is all the more creditable in such difficult country and with such trying weather."

At the end of June, General Campbell's column consisted of: Imperial Yeomanry: 1st Wilts (part), 2nd Wilts, 3rd Glosters, 4th Glamorgans; 2nd Battery, T Section, 1 pom-pom; 2nd Scots Guards, 1st Leinster Regiment, Detachments of R.A.M.C., A.S.C., and R.E.

Colonel Harley's Column :—Imperial Yeomanry : 36th West Kents, 53rd East Kents, 62nd Middlesex (part); Manchester Mounted Infantry, 77th Battery, T Section 1 pom-pom, 1st South Stafford Regiment, 2nd Manchester Regiment, Detachments of R.A.M.C., A.S.C. and R.E.

Divisional troops with Colonel Harley's column :—Tempest's Scouts, 36th Company Royal Garrison Artillery (one five-inch gun), Detachment of Grenadier Guards.

Bethlehem Garrison : Imperial Yeomanry, 1st Wilts, 3rd Glosters ; 2nd East Yorks, 79th Battery (one section).

Ficksburg Garrison : Worcester Mounted Infantry (one company), 77th Battery (one section), 1st Battalion Worcester Regiment, Detachments of R.E., R.A.M.C. and A.S.C.

Harrismith Garrison: 62nd Company Imperial Yeomanry (part), 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment, 79th Battery (four guns), Detachments R.E., R.A.M.C. and A.S.C.

On the 30th, a force consisting of 100 mounted men, 400 infantry, and two guns, under the command of Colonel Martin, escorted a large convoy of over two hundred waggons of provisions to General Elliot's column, then encamping at Springfield Drift.

On July 1st, extensive grass fires spread in the district, making grazing so scarce that many oxen died from exhaustion or were rendered unfit for work, and cows had to be utilised in the teams for taking out supplies to General Elliot's column, which was operating in the district.

In the Ficksburg district nothing of importance occurred, but numerous parties of the enemy were observed from time to time with waggons and stock going into Fransche Hoek, having been driven there by the combined movements of the columns operating towards that vicinity. The facilities for the enemy's escape to this wild and difficult country were great, for when pressed from the north or south they made for General's Kop and Moolman's Hoek respectively.

On the 4th the columns left Harrismith. General Campbell's proceeded to Mooi Hoek, and Colonel Harley's to Glen Paul.

The combined movements of the columns of the Division were as follows:—The left column moved close to the Wilge River, while the right moved along the Harrismith-Vrede Road, co-operating with General Elliot's column on the left bank of the Wilge River.

On the 5th Colonel Reay and Harley's Forces moved to Constantia and Mill River Bridge, while General

Campbell's moved to Aston Drift. On the march, all the farms and the majority of the kraals were found to be deserted, and very few Boers were seen.

The following day Reay's Force moved to Rondedraai, Harley's to Cornelis River Bridge, and Campbell's to Draai Hoek. About a hundred Boers were engaged but soon retired. During the day two of the Yeomanry were captured, but were subsequently released, minus their horses, rifles, and clothing.

On the 7th, the 17th Brigade and Divisional Head Quarters made a short march of three miles north-east from Cornelis River Bridge; Leeuw Kop was reconnoitred but was found to be unoccupied, the Boers having trekked south during the night, while another small force was sent out during the day to collect cattle and sheep.

On the following day (8th), the 17th Brigade and Divisional Head Quarters moved to Holspruit by the Newmarket-Woodside Road, and a few Boers were met with on the hills east of Newmarket; shots were exchanged, and two of the Yeomanry were wounded. General Campbell's column moved to Katkranz, and Reay's force to Rock Farm. During the march the two Brigades were in touch.

Next day Harley's column moved via Pramkop to David's Vlei, Campbell's to Bavaria and Reay's to Leeuw Kop. The majority of the farms visited were found to have been destroyed, and a general movement of the Boers was observed towards Vrede and the Witkopjes. The same day Commandant Human was brought into General Campbell's camp, where he succumbed to his wounds.

On the 10th, Harley's Force remained at David's Vlei

and Reay's at Leeuwkop. General Campbell's column occupied Botha's Berg after slight opposition, in which two Scots Guards—Privates Howie and Forbes—and one Yeoman—Trooper MacNichol—were killed, and several wounded. Immense numbers of sheep were destroyed at David's Vlei.

On the 11th, Campbell's column remained at Botha's Berg, Harley's column moved to Kalverfontein, and Reay's moved to Wilgedagger. Extensive grass fires again gave great trouble to the columns, owing to the wind driving them across the convoy, rendering heliographic communication impossible, as the whole of the country was covered by a dense smoke.

Colonel Reay made a night attack on the 12th with a few mounted men towards Guisplatz. Here he surrounded a laager of women, among whom were found two burghers. The laager was found to be well supplied with provisions, a considerable portion of which consisted of Army rations! Harley's Force moved to Noitgedacht, Campbell's to Driespruit on the Frankfort-Vrede Road, detaching three or four companies to Leeuwkop. This force saw a large commando of about eight hundred Boers passing to the south of Vrede. At first they were mistaken for Rimington's Column, which was due about this time; after the mistake had been discovered shots were exchanged and the commando passed on.

Colonel Romilly's Force was unable to head them, covering as he was, a very extended line, and as helio was impossible, a patrol was therefore sent in to Head Quarters with the information.

On the 13th, Colonel Harley's column joined General Campbell at Malta Farm, Driespruit; the following day (14th) the centre and right columns closed in on the town

of Vrede, and Rondel's Hoek was reconnoitred after a march of twenty-four miles. Small parties of Boers were noticed on the surrounding hills, and in the distance Rimington's Column was seen approaching from the east. The Divisional troops encamped between Vrede and Rondell's Hoek. Owing to extensive grass fires, which were of continued occurrence, communication with Standerton was impossible. Colonel Reay, whilst removing a women's laager, engaged a body of the Frankfort commando, killing and capturing seven or eight of their party ; and Lieutenant Thorneycroft, with Sergt Price, 2nd Manchester Regiment, and a party of the Manchester Mounted Infantry, crossed the Wilge River taking several prisoners, and capturing under a heavy fire, a large number of cattle. Our casualties were two, including Private Turnball, who succumbed to his wounds. The column moved along the right bank of the Wilge, reaching the Tafelkop-Vrede line, and covering a front of over twenty miles. The columns were in constant touch with the enemy, who fell back towards Vrede. Rimington's guns could be heard in the distance.

A patrol carrying dispatches from General Rundle to General Campbell, was held up by the Boers near Driespruit, but they were ultimately relieved by Colonel Tudway, after losing six of their number, including the officer in command. During this action the Boer Commandant, C. Botha, was killed, and his body was given to the Boers, who sent for it under a flag of truce.

It appears that our men (East Kent Imperial Yeomanry) came suddenly on sixty Boers at close range, who charged, firing from their horses and wounding the officer, Lieut. Wyatt-Edgel, a sergeant and also six

men. The remainder of our men, now under Corporal Grove, jumped off their horses and opened fire, driving off the Boers, and killing their leader. The Yeomanry then took up position for the night, and sent back nine miles to the camp for reinforcements, whence a small force was dispatched under Colonel Tudway, who made a night march and relieved the Yeomanry at daybreak.

On the 15th the whole force remained at Vrede. Colonel Rimington's Column arrived during the day and camped south-east of the town. All his sick, Boer prisoners and families and empty supply waggons joined our troops for escort to Standerton.

Next day the 16th Brigade moved at 6 a.m., and occupied all the hills on the way to De Lange's Drift. The 17th Brigade, with Divisional Head Quarters, afterwards followed to the Drift, meeting with a little opposition from a number of snipers on the right flank of the column. In the evening the 16th and 17th Brigades bivouacked on the south and north banks respectively of the Klip River, and on the following day (17th) the 17th Brigade moved on into Standerton, taking with them Rimington's impedimenta and the supply waggons of the 16th Brigade.

On the 19th, the 17th Brigade moved three miles out of Standerton on the Vrede Road, and three days after it reached De Lange's Drift and joined the 16th Brigade. Nearly all available grazing had been destroyed for miles round the Drift by the Boers.

The next day the Division marched to Guisplatz, near the Zonder Spruit. About fifty Boers were engaged by the Yeomanry, and another hundred were reported to be at a farm about five miles off. Two companies of the Scots Guards were accordingly sent out about 10 p.m. to surround it but did not succeed in surprising them.

On the 23rd the two columns moved to Malta Farm at Driespruit. Small parties of the enemy caused some trouble on the flanks, and just as the 17th Brigade was reaching camp, Lieutenant Cooper of the East Kent Yeomanry, who was in charge of the rear guard squadron, was mortally wounded by a sniper, and died before reaching camp.

The following day (24th) the march was delayed owing to a dense fog, during which three of the Manchesters who were on outpost were captured by the enemy. About 10 a.m. the columns marched by parallel roads to Bavaria, taking Botha's Berg on the way. A large party of Boers were seen on the Berg but they retired as soon as any attempt was made to surround them. In the evening the Brigades encamped at Bavaria and Vlakplatz.

Colonel Harley's Force proceeded to the Wit-kopjes on the 25th. Colonel Reay with a battalion, two guns and about two hundred Yeomanry, deployed to the east, and General Campbell's column, with Divisional Head Quarters, moved to Driehoek Farm, west of the Wit-kopjes. All farms and kraals passed on the way were rounded up.

On the 26th, Campbell's column with Divisional Head Quarters, moved through Oudendaal's Farm to Venterspad Valley ; the country was extremely difficult for the transport. Numbers of the enemy were seen on the southern hills, and the usual sniping was indulged in, during which Private Rigby (Tempest's Scouts), was mortally wounded.

From Harrismith on the 27th a small force of Yeomanry, aided by the Harrismith Light Horse, under Major Peacock, left at midnight to operate against Boers

about twelve miles away from the town. Early the following morning they surprised a Boer patrol hidden in a donga, who fled, leaving their horses, arms, and ammunition behind. The main body of the enemy retired, taking up a stronger position. Lieutenant Moore, with a portion of the Yeomanry, advanced to attack them, while the remainder of the force was kept as a support.

Unfortunately the enemy were found to be in much greater numbers than was anticipated, and the attack ended disastrously, Lieutenant C. H. Moore and one trooper were killed, seven or eight wounded, and Lieutenant Stutfield with thirty-five men, after firing all their ammunition and attempting to break through, were taken prisoners. The remainder of Lieutenant Moore's party got back to Major Peacock's supports, upon which the latter returned to Harrismith. The captured Yeomanry were subsequently released near Fouriesburg.

On the 27th the 16th Brigade moved on to Walterton, and from thence on the following day to Verkyberg. The Wit-kopjes were cleared of horses, cattle and sheep, and touch was maintained throughout the various columns operating.

On the 29th the Head Quarters and Campbell's Force moved to Maritz Drift. The 1st Battalion Yeomanry marched to Pleasant Gift Farm via Aston Drift and continued the work of rounding up the country on the west. A good deal of opposition was met with at Aston Drift. Colonel Harley's Force moved to Honing Kop. On the 30th the Head Quarters and Campbell's column joined Colonel Romilly at Pleasant Gift Farm, and Colonel Harley moved to Rhebok Kop. Two companies

of the Scots Guards with gun, moved at midnight to surround Meyer's Farm. No Boers, however, were seen, but the female occupants were brought away. A case containing coffee, sugar and other provisions was found, which evidently had been used by the Boers frequenting this district. August 1st to August 3rd was occupied in reaching Harrismith. The result of the march was 6 prisoners, 3,600 horses, 680 trek oxen, and nearly 5,000 cattle, beside accounting for a dozen Boers killed or wounded.

CHAPTER X.

The Scots Guards leave Harrismith for Maritzburg—Subsequently they operate in the Transvaal—Blockhouse building in the Caledon Valley—Arrival of the I.L.H. and other Troops in Harrismith—Breaking up of the Division—Tweefontein—A Survivor's Account—Moolman's Spruit—The Cow-gun.

On August 7th the 2nd Scots Guards, under the command of Colonel Romilly, were inspected by General Rundle prior to their proceeding to Maritzburg for duty, on the occasion of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of York's visit to that town.

Ragged veldt-worn clothes and boots had been changed for new ones, and with a little polishing and cleaning of accoutrements the battalion presented a smart appearance at the inspection.

The duty at Maritzburg was of the pleasantest description, and afforded a very agreeable change to the monotonous life on the desolate veldt. Our sojourn in Maritzburg lasted about a fortnight, during which time we learned that our connection had been severed from the Eighth Division. Indeed, all the Divisions were broken up, the moving of large bodies of men being no longer necessary.

Considerable latitude of leave was allowed to the troops, and the numerous rickshas of the town were patronised for the sake of this novelty of locomotion.

Maritzburg is very pretty at its best, and is as well appointed a little capital as one could wish to see ; when

favoured with its usual weather, it defies comparison on the score of beauty and charm with anything else in South Africa.

However, orders came which put an end to this pleasant change, and soon after we were on our way by rail to Springs, the terminus of a short branch line, east of Johannesburg, where a concentration of the Boers under Commandant-General Louis Botha, was reported.

After a week's stay at Springs, the battalion was ordered to Potchefstroom, the old Transvaal capital, in the Western Transvaal, which was reached via Johannesburg Park Station and Krugersdorp.

From Potchefstroom we marched southwards to the Vaal River, where blockhouse building was commenced at Forstman's Drift.

About a month was spent in this work and in occupying drifts—among them being De Wet's and Schoeman's Drifts—after which we received orders to proceed by train to Volksrust, in the Eastern Transvaal and from thence strike out to the Swazi Border via Wakkerstroom and Piet Retief.

Blockhouse building was again our occupation ; after their completion they were occupied by the battalion until the welcome news of peace arrived.

On August 8th, General Campbell's column left Harrismith for the Brandwater Basin and was much harassed en route by small parties of Boers hanging on the flanks of the column. During this march, Lieut. Quilter, of the Grenadier Guards, was wounded. On arriving at the Basin the work of blockhouse building along the Basutoland Border was commenced. These blockhouses proved just the thing required to meet the enemy's guerilla tactics in this region, for in addition to cutting off the Boer food supply from Basutoland,

they formed an effectual barrier against bands of the enemy attempting to break through to the mountains in the rear. Each blockhouse is enclosed with barbed wire sloping down inwards and outwards from iron standards. This effectually prevents the citadel from being rushed by a superior force of the enemy. In the centre of the wire entanglements is the citadel, which consists of a large cylinder about twelve feet in diameter, and which is surrounded by a two foot wall of loose stones packed in the shell of the cylinder ; these stones in turn being banked up by earth, sloping down to a trench four feet in depth. The trench surrounding the citadel may be thus safely used by troops, who stand and fire from this position. Usually about six men and a non-commissioned officer are left in charge of a blockhouse, and for their use the blockhouse is fitted with a cylindrical tank holding fifty or a hundred gallons of water. They are usually victualled for a fortnight, with a reserve supply both of ammunition and food, to be used only in cases of emergency. The whole line of blockhouses was ultimately put in telephonic or telegraphic communication with one another. In cases of continued attack, when ammunition and food may be running low, rockets are fired to attract the attention of troops who may be operating in their neighbourhood. At special strategic points, forts are built, which are on a larger scale than the blockhouses, accommodating a larger garrison and at the same time capable of withstanding artillery attacks.

During the building of this blockhouse line, opportunity was taken to round up farms for horses, cattle and forage.

On September 11th, whilst engaged in this work, near Vaal Bank, Lieutenant Clementi-Smith, of the Yeo-

manry, a noted shot, was mortally wounded, but not before he had accounted for three Boers killed. The Glamorgan Yeomanry on September 22nd, captured twenty-three Boers after a sharp fight at Nelspruit, among them being Nicholas Kierk, a member of the late Volksraad.

On November 1st, the troops under General Campbell were engaged with the enemy the greater part of the day when rounding up Synman's Hoek. His force was constantly harassed while carrying out the work of erecting blockhouses. Much rain had fallen, rendering the work most arduous and difficult owing to bad roads and swollen drifts.

On November 6th, Colonel Reay's column, while escorting provisions to Bethlehem, was attacked by a considerable force of Boers under M. Prinsloo, near Hattensdal Farm, near Tiger's Kloof. The enemy opened fire on the advanced guard, but were twice driven off by the Manchester Mounted Infantry. Shortly after, the rear guard was similarly assaulted by about two hundred Boers, who succeeded in rushing a post which was in charge of Lieutenant Tylden-Wright ; three men were killed, the Lieutenant severely wounded, and about a dozen of his men were taken prisoners. The advance of the column was again stubbornly resisted at Schalkie Farm, near Bethlehem, where a number of the Manchester Mounted Infantry, under Captain Noble, were all but surrounded by the enemy, who poured in a hail of bullets ; amongst the casualties were Lieut. Holberton, slightly wounded, and Captain Noble who fell mortally wounded. This unfortunate, but gallant officer, had been wounded only the previous February, in this same fatal district.

During August two regiments of the Imperial Light Horse under General Dartnell, arrived at Bloomfield Bridge near Harrismith, and at a later date other mounted troops, together with the Black Watch and the King's Royal Rifles, arrived in the Harrismith District. In September, Colonel Harley, formerly chief staff officer to General Rundle, left for England ; he had succeeded General Boyes, and had latterly commanded a mobile column, consisting of mixed troops known as the 17th Brigade. Lord Kensington, too, one of General Rundle's A's.D.C., left the Division to join his regiment in India. Indeed, with the influx of new troops and the leaving of many units of the Division, commenced the breaking up of the Eighth Division, although General Rundle and his A's.D.C., Captains Webber and McLean, remained until February, 1902, when the command of the Harrismith District was taken over by General Brooke.

General Campbell, with his A's.D.C., left Harrismith for England about the middle of March, 1902, handing over his command to Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.

In closing the account of the Eighth Division, it would not be complete without an account of the disaster which befel Colonel Firman's force at Tweefontein in the early hours of Christmas morning, 1901.

Tweefontein, the scene of the mishap, is situated in a mountainous country about equi-distant from Harrismith and Bethlehem, which are some sixty miles apart. In the neighbourhood of this turbulent part of the country, there are numerous kloofs in which an enemy can be concealed, and of which Tiger's Kloof is perhaps the best known to all members of the Eighth Division.

On the 24th December all blockhouses were completed and occupied to about nine miles west of Elands River

Bridge. Two companies of the East Yorks were encamped at Tradow, covering the line and supplying the blockhouses with garrisons as soon as they were completed. General Rundle, with about sixty mounted men of the South Staffords, and about 200 Grenadiers, were encamped near Mooi Mesjes Rust, about three miles north of Colonel Firman's camp. Colonel Firman's object in occupying Tweefontein was to cover the blockhouse line from attacks of the enemy who were known to be in the difficult country to the south and west. Colonel Firman being on short leave, the column passed under the temporary command of Major Williams of the South Staffords. The force numbered between three and four hundred, and consisted of the 34th, 35th, 36th and 53rd Companies of the 11th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, a few details of various regiments, one gun of the 79th Battery R.F.A., one pom-pom, and the Battalion maxim.

This force occupied a very strong position on the side of a solitary kopje. The southern side is precipitous, the edge of which was held by outposts. The northern slopes, on which the camp was situated, were gentle, and outposts were pushed well out. This position formed the usual camping ground for all columns passing to and from the Bethlehem direction.

At 2 a.m. on the 25th, heavy firing was heard at General Rundle's camp from the direction of Firman's camp. Colonel Tudway, with the mounted Staffords, was dispatched to ascertain the cause of it, and, if necessary, to assist in repelling the attack. He halted his men about a thousand yards from Firman's camp and pushed on himself with four men, preceded by two scouts. On arriving quite close to the camp, he saw men swarming amongst the tents shouting to each other

in Dutch. In the moonlight, now and again obscured by clouds, he could see that the whole camp was in possession of the Boers, who were still firing heavily at a number of resisting yeomen. Just at this time he was called on to surrender by a number of Boers on the outskirts of the camp, and within 40 yards of him. His two scouts were captured, but the Colonel, with the other four men, made a dash for it and reached the rest of his men under a heavy fire.

Immediately after the party got back to General Rundle's camp, Captain McLean, A.D.C., with a guide and two runners were dispatched for the Imperial Light Horse, who were camped at Eland's River, fourteen miles away. This distance was covered by Captain McLean under the hour in the dark. Detachments were sent out by General Rundle to cover the advance of the Light Horse, as the Boers were threatening to get between him and the expected reinforcements in order to prevent their junction. Captain Blackwood, with the mounted South Staffords, raced about forty Boers for the possession of a hill two miles to the south-east, which commanded the approach of the Imperial Light Horse, and won.

The enemy then trekked off with their waggons to the fastnesses of the Langberg, and at 6.30 a.m. the Light Horse came up, having done fourteen miles in an hour. From General Rundle's position the Boers were observed taking the captured waggons under strong escort towards the north end of the Langberg. Another strong party of the enemy was seen moving past Schalkie on the right. A number of Boers were still holding Firman's camp and burning everything they had been unable to remove. The waggons moving towards the Langberg were shelled, on which they

scattered in all directions until out of range, when they made for the southern end of the range.

Pursuit of the Boers by the Light Horse had to be abandoned owing to the difficulties of the country into which the enemy had retired.

A visit to Firman's camp shewed it to be a total wreck. The enemy, having rushed the pickets, poured in an appalling fire, and literally overwhelmed the small force by sheer weight of numbers.

Major Caldwell was the only surgeon left on the field able to attend to the wounded. It took the whole day to collect the dead and wounded.

From reports of the survivors, it appears that the Boers, in stockinged feet, had crept up the steep southern side of the kopje, and thrown themselves in overwhelming numbers on the pickets at the edge. Before the men in the camp could be rallied the Boers were swarming through it, and shooting down men as they rushed out, and the officers were shot down while gallantly trying to stem the tide.

Lieutenant Hardwick himself opened fire with the pom-pom and was shot through the heart while firing. The 15-pounder fired two rounds and then jammed. The gunners were overpowered, and Major Williams and Lieutenant Watney were killed whilst heading a gallant attempt to charge. All did their best against terrible odds.

Half the little force was killed or wounded and the rest taken prisoners. The Boers appeared to have lost pretty heavily, especially whilst rushing the pickets, for they were observed carrying off several waggon loads of their killed and wounded. De Wet and Brand were in command of the Boers, who numbered roughly from twelve to fifteen hundred.

Officers' Casualties at Tweefontein, December 25th, 1901.

OFFICERS KILLED, AND OFFICERS WHO DIED SUBSEQUENTLY OF THEIR WOUNDS.

Major Williams (in command).	Lieutenant Hudson.
	Lieutenant Agnew.
Captain Grice.	Lieutenant Watney.
Captain Hall.	Lieutenant Hardwick.
Captain Crawley.	Dr. Reid (Civil Surgeon).

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Lieutenant Stutfield.	Lieutenant Mowatt.
Lieutenant Parsons.	Lieutenant French.

Lieutenant McLean.

The prisoners were ultimately released near the Basuto Border, but not before being robbed of their valuables and money, and made to exchange their clothes for the ragged and dirty garments of their captors.

The following is an extract from a private letter from a 34th Imperial Yeomanry officer, dated 23rd December, 1901, Tweefontein, O.R.C.

"We have just had a most exciting chase after De Wet, going night and day, with two hours' halt every ten hours and no grub at all.

About half way between Bethlehem and Senekal we caught one of his scouts, at 3 a.m., and he told us that De Wet was two hours ahead with eight hundred men, a 15-pounder, and a pom-pom.

At 6 o'clock the next morning we came in touch with him, and had three hours of the hardest fighting I've ever had; they fought with wonderful pluck, both in our advance and rear, and tried to rush us several times.

Our force consisted of 1,200 mounted men, two 15-pounders and three pom-poms, under the command of General Dartnell, who is a popular leader.

We picked up seven dead Boers after they had retired, and captured three prisoners. Our casualties were thirty killed and wounded, but only two of the 34th Imperial Yeomanry were seriously wounded.

The Imperial Light Horse had the worst time; they were doing advance and rear guards, while we were on the flanks. Our prisoners say that the Boers had over one hundred killed and wounded, and I should think this true, as we saw them continually carrying their killed and wounded away, for they hate to think that we know their casualties.

They are an awfully plucky lot of chaps that are fighting now. At times things looked serious, for we had very bad cover and the Boers had surrounded us. However, the tide turned in our favour, but the enemy had managed to send their guns away before they themselves retired.

Our horses and men were frightfully done up by the time we got back to Elands River Bridge, and I feel as if I could sleep for a week without waking.

General Rundle came out from Harrismith the day we returned, and congratulated us on the creditable way in which we had acquitted ourselves."

C. R. HEENAN.

[The above letter was written two days before the disaster at Tweefontein, and was picked up under the body of a dead Boer after the fight.]

Extract from a private letter from the same officer dated January 1st, 1902.

Harrismith, O.R.C.

"I expect you have seen what an awful time we had on Christmas Day. De Wet, with about 1,200 burghers attacked us at 2 a.m.; we had 400 men, and were fairly

taken by surprise ; they took a 15-pounder, a pom-pom and a maxim.

Mellish and myself were the only two Yeomanry officers who were not hit. The 34th Company suffered more than any other unit. It was awful : most of them were shot at about ten yards' range. I cannot give you any details of the attack now, as I cannot allow myself to think of it. We buried fifty-six men in one trench and six officers in another.

I have just come in here to get some clothes as I only have my pyjamas left. The Boers took everything they could carry, and then burnt the rest—tents and all.

Of course you saw that Hall, my Captain, was killed, and Agnew. Lieutenant Stutfield was severely wounded. I will write you again later. I never saw such a ghastly sight ; men were knocked down like ninepins. I don't know why I was not hit ; I saw all the other 34th officers and men killed.

I had a letter written for you which I picked up in the camp afterwards, and will send on."

C. R. HEENAN.

Extract from another letter from the same source, dated January 17th, 1902.

Bloomfield, O.R.C.

"It was awfully good of you to wire asking after me. Well, old man, it was the roughest time I've had out here, and I have been in one or two hot corners, too. De Wet attacked us in the bright moonlight at 2 a.m. Christmas Day. There were just over 400 of us, with a 15-pounder, a pom-pom and a maxim, the last mentioned being attached to the 34th—the old one we brought out with us—and it has killed many a Boer —but now the Dutchmen have the lot.

We were camped on a kopje and had a picket on the edge of the precipice where the Boers came up in single file, for they could not have got up any other way. The picket were evidently all asleep, as the Boers were commanding the camp before a shot was fired. Our squadron was nearest the top—about twenty yards off. We tried to rush them, but there were hundreds up there and our men fell down all over the place, some being hit in seven or eight places at once, and nearly all by expanding or Martini bullets; you could put your fist into many of the men's wounds.

I had the most marvellous escape I have ever had. When we got within ten yards of the Boers, and found they outnumbered our squadron by about forty to one, we laid down to fire. I got an order from my captain to take six men round on the left; I thought, 'This is all right, the poor fellows are being shot lying down; what about our chance when we stand up?'

I got up and took six men; three were shot at once, I had a slight graze from a bullet on my right hand, two bullets passed through my pyjamas, one across my stomach, and the other through the leg.

Soon after I had left our late position, all the men there were either killed or wounded, among the former being my captain, hit in six places. We got round to a small rock and had the most lively shooting you could wish for at ten yards' range, and Boers, too, as close together as a flock of sheep. Just after I got there, Lieutenants Agnew and Stutfield of our squadron, and Lieutenant Parsons of the 53rd Company, joined us, and we stayed there for about a quarter of an hour.

The Boers were then walking past us on our right, making for the transport, and didn't seem to notice us for some time; we had killed a good twelve of them

before they made a determined attack on us, and then they let us have it hot.

We stopped there until the flashes were almost blazing in our faces, and then we decided to bolt; Agnew was killed at once and Stutfield and Parsons severely wounded. I and another man were the only two that got away. I ran to a party of men I thought were ours retiring, but when I got nearer to them, I found they were Boers, so I dropped down by the nearest wounded man I could see and started bandaging him. I thus managed to remain in camp during the whole time the Boers were there, and saw them take away our transport and guns, besides the clothing of the wounded.

My clothing, too, was taken away from me, and I was left only with my pyjamas. One little devil told me to take those off, but I told him I was not a "Venus"; he finally left me alone.

One Kaffir shot two Boers and was seen to do it by others, so they shot him but only wounded him; they then tied him to a waggon and set fire to it; it was an awful sight!

I went up to one brute standing near, and told him they were curs, but I got a slash across my face with his sjambok for my trouble.

Rumour says that the Yeomanry made a muck of things, but our squad fought well; I saw one of my men using the butt end of his rifle. Out of twenty-three men in my troop I had eight killed, seven wounded, three taken prisoners—the others escaped."

C. R. HEENAN.

On April 20th, practically the last action of any importance took place at Moolman's Spruit, near Brindisi, Brandwater Basin.

A force of Imperial Yeomanry of the 1st Battalion, together with about forty mounted South Staffords, under the command of Major Perceval, R.A., was ambushed by a large force of Boers, and suffered heavy loss. The force left at night, with the object of attacking a farm in which a small party of Boers were reported to be sleeping. The enemy, however, had evidently received information of the intention and movements of Major Perceval's force and had taken steps to considerably reinforce their number until it exceeded the attacking force. A tremendous fire was opened on the advancing troops who were endeavouring to take possession of the outbuildings round the farm. These, however, had been loopholed and the whole position barricaded and made well nigh impregnable.

Under these circumstances, the order was given to retire. Had it not been for the fact that a large number of the Boer horses had been shot, Major Perceval's force would in all probability have been annihilated. As it was, the casualties were heavy, and included Captain Sir Thomas Fowler, who was killed, Captain Blackwood mortally wounded, and who died before reaching camp, Lieutenant Rawes severely wounded, Captain Thain and Lieutenant Leonard slightly wounded, four rank and file killed, twelve wounded, and twenty-eight missing.

By a strange coincidence, Captain Blackwood was killed in close proximity to the place where, twelve months previously (April 24th, 1901), he was shot through the arm.

This fight is remarkable as being not only the last severe engagement of the Eighth Division, but also the final action of any importance in the campaign.

With an account of the cow-gun and its trekkings, ends the narrative of the work of the Eighth Division.

From a photo by T. F. Andrews, Harrismith.

OUR OLD FRIEND THE COW-GUN READY FOR ACTION.

THE COW GUN.

The official name of the piece of ordnance known in the Eighth Division as the "cow-gun," is five-inch B.L. Mark IV. Though looked upon as something quite new, the cow-gun has been in the service longer than any of those who serve it. The gun itself was manufactured in 1889. The carriage left the Royal Carriage Department as far back as the year 1877, and was originally made to carry a 40-pounder muzzle-loading gun.

The entire weight of the gun-carriage and limber is a little less than five tons. It is drawn by twenty-four oxen, which can, with few exceptions, take it wherever it is required.

This gun was one of a battery of four that arrived at Cape Town in January, 1900. They were not fitted with brakes till they had been trekking about the country for some months. Before this had been done, travelling over rough country meant very hard work for the gunners.

On arriving at the top of a steep hill, the order "Drag ropes to the rear" would be given. The ropes were then hooked on to the axles and the men held on hard. By this means the gun was checked and prevented from running on to the oxen. But it frequently happened that even when the infantry escort also put their weight on to the ropes control of the gun was lost. Then the Kaffirs would begin to yell and whistle, the oxen trotted, and the men falling on their backs were dragged down head foremost. Not till it reached the bottom would the gun come to a standstill, and then the legs of the oxen had to be disentangled from the trek-chain. This

done, at a yell of "Oh amba" (go on) from the Kaffir driver, the oxen trekked on as quietly as if they were just leaving camp. But after the brakes had been attached, only one man in addition to the two Kaffirs, was necessary to bring the gun safely to the bottom of any hill.

Beside the much-talked-of lyddite shell, the five-inch also fires shrapnel, containing between two and three hundred leaden balls weighing one ounce each.

Shrapnel can be used up to a range of 5,700 yards, and lyddite up to the extreme range of 10,500 yards. Both shells weigh 50lbs. each.

Many people consider that lyddite has proved a failure. It undoubtedly has not performed the prodigies that were expected of it, but it has never been treated with indifference by the Boers. When used against the enemy hiding in rocks, it has often been more successful than shrapnel, owing to its power of smashing the rocks and hurling them in all directions. The fumes caused by this explosive are also very effective in making the enemy shift from a strong position. Hundreds of Boers have been seen to run from one side of the hill to the other, in order to escape from these fumes, which were found to have a numbing effect on the senses, making it impossible for those exposed to them to see or hear for some time after the explosion.

The name "cow-gun" has reference to the manner in which the gun is moved; but it does not express what is its particular duty in action. A better name for this, and indeed the proper name, is "Position Gun." A position gun is one that in an attack takes up a central position out of range of the enemy's rifle fire and also if possible, out of the reach of his smaller guns, from which it can bombard any part of his position.

Once in position the Position Gun remains there till the end of the day, concentrating its fire on the enemy's heavy guns and so drawing his attention away from the field batteries as they move forward in support of the infantry attack.

These guns were sent out from England when people were crying out at what they call our obsolete field guns —obsolete because they were unable to do work for which they were never intended. The mobile field-gun was not made for the purpose of attacking big guns in position, and for this reason its elder brother, the Position Gun was sent to help it and prevent it from being overwhelmed by superior weight of metal.

This is the part played by a Position Gun in an ordinary fight in the early part of the campaign. When the enemy's position has been reconnoitred by the mounted troops and the infantry are preparing to attack, the officer commanding the Position Artillery, rides forward and selects a position for his guns. This is not necessarily on the top, but is often behind a hill. The ranges to various points in the enemy's position are ascertained not from the top of the hill—nobody must go there to attract attention—but from a spot some distance to a flank. The guns are then brought up and placed in their allotted positions and made ready to begin the bombardment.

There is no unseemly hurry in the movement of the big guns, they come up slowly and when comfortably settled down begin the conversation in a slow, emphatic voice.

The commanding officer, looking through his field-glasses, sees in the distance men running to and fro. He watches more carefully and soon sees a flash, followed by a cloud of dust, he knows at once that there

is a Boer Long Tom. If the Boer gunners have seen our position their shell comes screaming through the air and falls with an ominous "plop" not far from us. A sharp order is given, the guns are loaded and turned on to the Boer gun and the duel begins. For some time our fire is well answered and the wicked shells of the enemy begin to look dangerous. One man has had the misfortune to be hit by a whole shell, and others are wounded by jagged pieces. Their places are quietly taken by men from the rear, so there is no check in the service of the guns.

All of a sudden the shells come no more, but we continue firing with a slight increase of range for each round.

The lyddite shells have been falling closer to the Boer, hiding him from sight with their large clouds of venomous-looking smoke. He limbers up as fast as he can and begins to retire. At last we get the order "Stand fast," and we know that the Boer, finding his position too trying for his nerves, has disappeared from sight. For a time the men sit down round their guns and chaff each other about the narrow escapes they have undergone. "Well, annyho, he missed me entoirely," says the Irishman, and they are all quite happy. But they may not long remain inactive. The commanding officer has found another object to fire at and we hope it will not strike back as vigorously as our last opponent.

It is only a pom-pom this time. He soon thinks better of it and retires at our fourth round. So the firing goes on till the infantry are seen on the tops of the hills where a short time before the Mauser riflemen were lying.

"Cease firing" is given, and we pack up our various stores. The slow oxen bring up the limber, and after many terrible oaths from the Kaffirs, Kluysmaan and

his fellows are persuaded to stand in the right place. The gun is limbered up and we advance. It must not be imagined that this was a daily occurrence for the Position Artillery. We give it only because during such incidents alone does the service of the big guns becomes exciting.

Most of the campaign is spent by a cow-gun in trekking day after day slowly over level country, which becomes very monotonous.

We crawl along over the never-ending veldt from bivouac to bivouac. Sometimes we hear shooting in front but cannot get there in time to be of any use. Perhaps after days of this dull work, we at last arrive in front of a position held by the Boers, and then we may have enough excitement to last us through many more weary marches.

Although much anxiety is experienced while marching over rough country—anxiety as to whether we shall stick in that drift or fall over the precipice in turning the next corner on the hill-side, or whether we shall come to the bottom of the hill without losing control of the gun and finally having to dig it out of that donga—yet there is much pleasure in feeling that gradually all these difficulties can be overcome and that we may arrive once more without harm in the open country.

Such was the experience of the Eighth Division cow-gun when marching with General Rundle from Fouriesburg in the Brandwater Basin through Golden Gate to Harrismith.

With few exceptions the road throughout was rocky and bad. It ran diagonally up hillsides and turned the corner at the top with a steep precipice down on one side and sheer rock running up on the other. It went down steep hills, twisting and turning in and out, and

in many places it sloped from right to left, causing the wheels to slip sideways. On both sides of us there rose up high ranges of hills so close together that they only allowed room in the valley for the road and the stream. Being mid-winter there were many places in the valley where the sun never shone, and long icicles clung to the rocks all day.

When the column went into bivouac for the night the wild baboons could be seen on the hills above, chattering and gesticulating, apparently much annoyed at the intrusion of the "new tribe."

All the difficulties of this country had been successfully overcome except surmounting a difficult hill which ran down into a deep valley and a steep hill up the other side. Once over this safely we should be in the open country and our troubles would be at an end for a time.

With much care and trouble and a few hair-breadth escapes the gun and waggons were let down to the bottom. The uphill did not look formidable; it was thought to be only a matter of doubling the spans and we should soon be on the top.

Forty-eight oxen were put in front of the gun, and to the usual accompaniment of unearthly noises from the Kaffirs, the patient beasts dragged their burden slowly but surely halfway up the hill. Here the drivers, by whistling and shouting up and down the scale, halted the team. For a short time the long whips were held low, each ox was called on by name and encouraged to greater efforts. At the sound of their names, Kluysmaan, Oosmaan, Blocin, Scobsmaan, Tom, Wijmaan, and the others, they put their necks further into the yokes, and at the crack of the whip they all moved forward together. All went well till within a yard of the top, when suddenly

the trek chain broke with a snap underneath the pole and the gun rushed backward down the hill. At first it kept straight on the road, so that it seemed that no damage would be done, but at the bottom it turned to one side and was carried by its impetus over on to its back. Fortunately no one was hurt, as all the men had time to stand clear. Ten spokes of one of the wheels were broken. A spare wheel was not carried. What was to be done? That night we went sadly to our blankets round our injured comrade. The main camp being on the top of the hill we were well within the outposts. At daybreak next morning wheelers from the Field Artillery and Transport came down, took the whole to pieces and began to make spokes out of the pieces of a broken waggon. The gun-carriage and limber were dismantled and put together again the right way up, propped up ready for the mended wheel. For nine hours the clever wheelers worked, with the result that at the end of that time the gun was again ready to move and was looking as well as ever, except that the new spokes were square instead of being their usual shape. The oxen were inspanned and the waggons began to ascend the hill first. Our trouble was, however, not yet over. The first waggon broke its chain and went down the hill, turning over at the bottom and going into a twenty-foot donga. No damage was done, for it takes very rough usage to damage an ox-waggon.

In about half an hour the waggon had been pulled out, reloaded, and was ready to go up the hill once more. The next time the chains did not break. All the carriages arrived at the top, and we marched on with the column without further mishap.

The mended wheel creaked and groaned piteously,

but it stood many a hard bump on the rocks, and helped to bring the gun safely into Harrismith, where a new wheel was obtained.

The last time the cow-gun trekked was in August, 1901. Since then it has been resting on a hill in the defences of Harrismith, and is now surrounded by a flower garden. The days have passed when such dignified pieces of ordnance should be moved about.

Under the charge of Lieutenant Swayne, R.G.A., it has fired 539 rounds and shows small signs of wearing.

Long may the cow-gun rest in peace and think of the glorious days that have been and are no more!

CASUALTY LIST OF THE EIGHTH DIVISION.

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS.

APPENDIX.

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900.
Lt-Gen	Rundle, Sir H M L, KCB, etc, RA	Slightly wnded	Near Senekal	Sept 18

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.

2nd Battery.

				1900.
Gunner	Lusted, W	Wounded	Ficksburg	July 23
Bombr	Charnley, W P	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	May 4
Driver	Perkins, J H	,,	Hammonia	June 11
Gunner	Gallery, E	,,	Thaba Nchu	May 23
,,	Hammerton, A	,,	Bloemfontein	May 15
Driver	Ashby, W	,,	Naauwpoort	Apl 17
Gunner	Roads, E	,,	Frankfort	Dec 3
Col	Chapman, L J	,,	Pretoria	Dec 3
				1901.
Bombr	Tuthill, H G	Slightly wnded	Near Heilbron	Mar 30
Gunner	Slater, G	,,	Parijs	Apl 19
Sh-Smith	Buttar, T	Died of disease	Standerton	Feb 18
Gunner	Sims, A C	,,	Van Reenen	Oct 14
				1902.
Sergt	McBride, J F	,,	Kroonstad	Jan 10

77th Battery.

				1900.
Bombr	Kitchener, J	Died of disease	Sterkstroom	April 6
Gunner	Pithie, A	Wounded	Wakkerstroom	Apl 21
Driver	Parker, R	Slightly wnded	Harrismith	Dec 8
Sh-Smith	Jeffries, F	Died of disease	Vrede	Dec 24
Gunner	Pithie, A	,,	Winburg	Dec 30
,,	Hathaway, T	Killed	Bethlehem	Dec 16
				1901.
Gunner	Holdin, T	Severely wnded	Rietpan	Jan 6
Corp	Bain, W	Wounded	Fouriesburg	Feb 20
Gunner	Barnett, C	Slightly wnded	,,	Feb 20
Driver	Hills, A	Killed by horse	Ficksburg	May 6
,,	Jones, E	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Feb 5
,,	Gould, W J	,,	Vrede	Feb 10
Gunner	Reid, G M	,,	Bethlehem	Feb 12
Sergt	Blanchard, W	Slightly wnded	Ficksburg	Feb 4
Gunner	Hargreaves, J	Died of disease	Standerton	Feb 23
,,	Tompkins, T	,,	Harrismith	Mar 14

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1901.
Act Bombr	Rolfe, A	Died of disease	Ficksburg	Mar 26
Gunner	Bradley, Wm	,,	,,	April 3
Act Bombr	Owens, F H	,,	Fouriesburg	May 27
Wheeler	Bratt, R	,,	Bethlehem	June 25
Gunner	Reeves, W J	,,	Bavaria, ORC	July 24
Driver	Porter, T	Killed by lightng	Brindisi, ORC	Nov 9
Gunner	Stephens	Killed	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Black, J	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Marchand, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lockett	,,	,,	,,
Driver	Buke	,,	,,	,,
,,	Byron	,,	,,	,,
		79th Battery.		
				1900.
Act Bombr	Child, W H	Slightly wnded	Biddulphsberg	May 20
Gunner	Capell, W	Died of disease	Senekal	June 13
,,	Menford, G	,,	Sterkstroom	Mar 31
				1901.
Gunner	Barrett, E	Died of disease	Harrismith	Mar 11
Act Bombr	Tebbutt, E	Severely wnded	Wolmaransstad	Mar 6
Bombr	Child, W	Died of disease	Harrismith	Apl 13
Gunner	Lamb, W	Wounded	Tigerkloof	Apl 23
,,	Taylor	Slightly wnded	Bethlehem	May 30
,,	Higgins, C	,,	Retiefs Nek	May 28
Gunner	Hughes, W	Severely wnded	Tweefontein	Dec 25
Driver	Clark, J	,,	,,	,,
Gunner	Ellison, W J	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Miller, W	,,	,,	,,
Driver	Morgan	,,	,,	,,
Gunner	Roche, T	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Collins, E	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Simmonds, D F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Price, D E	,,	,,	,,
Gunner	Hughes, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rexon, W W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Haughty, T	,,	,,	,,
Sh-Smith	Heily, P	,,	,,	,,
Driver	Scales, J	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Oct 26
Bombr	Shanley, T	Killed	Tweefontein	Dec 25
Gunner	McLellan	,,	,,	,,
,,	Murphy, J	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Baines, H J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Driver	Watt, R	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Gunner	Gordon, J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
				1902.
Driver	Piper, J	Fractured leg	Harrismith	Feb 12
,,	Phyall, C	Dangsly wnded	Wilge River	Mar 26
Sh-Smith	Kelsey, H	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Gunner	Johnson, W	,,	Uitvlacht	Apl 8
Corp	King, A H	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
Driver	Bennett, J	Fractured leg	Brugspruit	Apl 20
Gunner	Dyer, T	Died of disease	Mooi River	Feb 5
Driver	Milne, A W C	Accid drowned	Nr Bmboospruit	Mar 30

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

NOTE.—The following remarks refer to the Casualty List of the 1st, 4th and 11th Battalions Imperial Yeomanry.

"*It has been found impossible to eliminate a few casualties belonging to certain Units of the Imperial Yeomanry, but which did not form part of the Eighth Division; they, therefore, appear in the lists.*"

1st Battalion.

1st Co (Wilts)
2nd Co. (Wilts).
63rd (Wilts).
3rd Co. (Gloster).
4th Co. (Glamorgan).

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	King, F C	Killed	Nr Bloemfontn	June 10
Sergt	Harrington, P	Wounded	Slaapkrantz	July 28
Private	Wheeler, H C	Died of disease	Dewetsdorp	May 21
Corp	Oexle, B	Missing		June 15
Private	Humphries, F	Slightly wnded	Thaba Nchu	May 5
,,	Hadley, B	Died of disease	Ladybrand	June 3
,,	Cole, E G	,,	Winburg	June 23
Driver	Dean, F	Severely wnded	Slaapkrantz	July 28
Corp	Nicholson, F	Accd drowned		,,
Lieut	Hon Robertson, R B F	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Gorton, M W	,,		May 15
,,	Jones, F C	Missing	Hoopi Rock	May 10
,,	Iles, R W	Died of disease	Ladybrand	June 20
,,	Lloyd, A	,,	Bloemfontein	July 3
Sergt	Butler, F W	,,	Thaba Nchu	July 8
Private	Harris, A C	Accd killed	Edinburg	Apl 28
S Ser-Maj	Lyford, A J	Severely wnded	Ladybrand	Sept 3
Sergt	Dobbie, W H	Killed	Nr Ladybrand	Nov 30
Sh-Smith	Urch, A	Died of disease	Winburg	Nov 5
L-Corp	Burnaby, H D	Wounded accid	,,	Nov 7
Private	Cory, R V	Died of wounds	Leeuw River	Sept 5
,,	Goodman, C H	Died of disease	Winburg	Nov 11
,,	Garrett, W	Killed	Leeuw River	Sept 5
,,	Morris, J A	Severely wnded	Near Winburg	Oct 18
,,	Crewe-Read, E	Prisoner	,,	Nov 4
,,	Stowe, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Simpkins, H	Slightly wnded	Ladybrand	Sept 4
Bugler	Batten, R	,,	Near Winburg	Oct 1

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900.
Captain	Yardley, J W	Wounded	Near Bethel	Oct 15
,,	Stanley Clarke, W	Killed	Brandw'r Basin	Aug 24
Lieut	Barkley, M W	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Cavendish-Browne, J	Killed	Vrede	Oct 25
Sergt	Butcher, G	Slightly wnded	Tafel Kop	Oct 2
Corp	Dean, W E	Severely wnded	Near Senekal	Aug 20
Private	Hill, E T	Died of disease	Harrismith	Dec 25
,,	Sparrow, G	Severely wnded	Near Senekal	Aug 20
,,	Young, F H	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Dent, W	Died of disease	Vrede	Dec 6
,,	Brown, T A	Killed	Near Senekal	Aug 20
,,	Coombs, J	Severely wnded	Tafel Kop	Oct 2
,,	Hill, J	Slightly wnded	Brandw'r Basin	Aug 24
,,	Griffen, A B	Died of disease	Harrismith	Dec 13
,,	Howe, L R	Wounded	Nr Harrismith	Nov 21
,,	Bushell, G F H	Died of disease	Ladybrand	Aug 26
,,	Mardon, B J	Killed	Vrede	Oct 26
Corp	Carey, H	Died of disease	Harrismith	Dec 9
Private	Carabine, F J	Slightly wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Oct 26
,,	Stockwell, A E	Died of disease	Harrismith	Dec 7
,,	Viney, C	Missing	Cammando Nek	Aug 4
Sergt	Reeve, J	Died of wounds	Vrede	Oct 12
Lieut	Clifford, H F	Slightly wnded	Near Vaalkop	Sept 17
Private	Edwards, C T	,,	Ladybrand	Sept 3
,,	Williams, W	Died of disease	Howick	Nov 30
Sergt	Thomas, C	Slightly wnded	Near Senekal	Dec 20
Corp.	Blessley, H D	,,	Tiger Kloof	Sept 25
Private	Norman Biggs	,,	Near Vrede	Oct 10
,,	Nell, C L	Killed	Near Senekal	Dec 20
,,	Stiles, S D	,,	Nr Harrismith	Aug 2
,,	Stew, M	Died of disease	Winburg	Dec 28
				1901.
Private	Hope, E	Died of disease	Harrismith	Jan 7
,,	Daniell, C W	,,	,,	Jan 9
,,	Lewis, T	,,	,,	Jan 21
,,	Briggs, T G	,,	Winburg	Jan 27
,,	Brooks, H T	,,	Harrismith	Jan 29
,,	Lynn, A	,,	Mooi River	Feb 2
Sergt	England, E	Prisoner	Near Winburg	Feb 3
S Ser-Maj	Beady, R	,,	,,	,,
Private	Slade, E W	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Butcher, G J	Died of disease	Mooi River	Feb 6
Private	Jefferys, J W	,,	Harrismith	Feb 13
,,	Butler, W	,,	Winburg	Feb 23
,,	Neal, E C	Severely wnded	Vrede	Mar 5
L-Corp	Wood, J C	Died of disease	Winburg	Mar 21
Private	Featherstone, C G	,,	Harrismith	Mar 24
,,	Profitt, W	,,	Winburg	Mar 31
,,	Damant, C H	,,	Woodstock	Apl 7
Private	Mycock, W	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	Apl 10
,,	Clarke, G	Severely wnded	Tiger Kloof	Apl 23

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Corp	Monday, E S	Dangsly wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Apl 28
,,	Hillier, L	Severely wnded	Fouriesburg	May 5
Private	Raper, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thomas, D	Died of disease	Elandsfontein	May 8
,,	Williams, E J	,,	Harrismith	May 20
Corp	James, A N	,,	,,	May 18
Private	Morley, H H	,,	,,	May 19
,,	Dann, W T	,,	,,	May 18
,,	Morgan, R J	Severely wnded	Nr Harrismith	May 15
,,	Lane, G	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
Lieut	Bowles, A F B	Slightly wnded	Nr Fouriesburg	May 21
Corp	Parrot, A C	Accd injured	Nr Bethlehem	May 22
Private	Ward, W E	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Harris, P G	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Ashby, F	Mortally wnded	Nr Fouriesburg	May 25
,,	Webb, E	Died of disease	Harrismith	May 29
,,	Dargue, J S	Mortally wnded	Retiefshoek	May 28
,,	Wakefield, F	Died of disease	Kroonstad	June 4
,,	Brewer, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Neilson, W	Severely wnded	Not stated	May 31
Sergt	Edmonds, E M	,,	,,	June 3
Sergt-Maj	Neale, B W	Slightly wnded	,,	June 4
Private	Neal, E C	Died of disease	Newcastle	June 12
Far-Sergt	Campbell, T B	,,	Nr Harrismith	June 10
Private	Spence, A	,,	Harrismith	June 16
,,	White, A M	Killed	Near Kasteel	June 17
,,	Aston, G	Missing	,,	,,
Sergt-Maj	Gregory, J	Died of disease	Harrismith	June 27
Private	Clements, G T	Missing	Georgina	June 23
,,	Johnson, H	Slightly wnded	,,	June 6
Farrier	Wilson, J F	Killed	Tiger Kloof	Apl 23
Private	Firth, W	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Stevens, C	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Mant, G H	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Kirk, J	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Christie, T	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Clarke, M G S	Severely wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Apl 28
Private	Lawley, G	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Allsopp	,,	Jansfontein	June 19
Private	Piercy, G J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
L-Corp	Rae, T	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Trooper	Evans, W H	Accd wounded	Priors Siding	May 7
Private	Bridge, B	Slightly wnded	Dwaasburg	Aug 14
Bugler	Smelt, A H	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Dec 19
Private	Jones, G	Prisoner	Tweefontein	Dec 25
Corp	Townsend, J	Slightly wnded	Kalkrans	July 8
Private	Jenkins, T	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Burrows, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Holes, W	,,	Dwaasburg	Aug 16
,,	Newby, T	Slightly wnded	Fouriesburg	Oct 7
,,	Perish, E F	Severely wnded	Dwaasburg	Aug 16
,,	England, W P	Died of disease	Graaff Reinet	July 11
,,	Dennis, W C	Accd Injured	Bethlehem	Aug 13
,,	Brotherton, S R	Dangsly wnded	Retiefs Nek	Nov 1

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1901.
Private	Cross, E J	Slightly wnded	Retiefs Nek	Nov. 1
Corp	Davies, T	Died of disease	Harrismith	July 12
Private	MacNichol, J	Killed	Bothasberg	July 9
,,	Williams, G	Dangsly wnded	Gannabridge	July 21
,,	Evans, J	Slightly wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Aug 11
L-Corp	Coles, W G	Accd wounded	Vogelsfontein	Aug 6
Lieut	Roberts, L W	Dangsly wnded	Diepfont'n, ORC	Sept 27
Private	Hughes, F	Severely wnded	Valchriver, ORC	Sept 28
Lieut	Hastings, M	Killed	Reitz	Nov 10
Private	Gaskins, J H	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Sergt	Smith, F	Died of disease	Kroonstad	Nov 18
Private	Perry, W	,,	,,	Dec 2
L-Corp	Crowley, T	Missing	Olievensfontein	Dec 24
Private	Weldon, S	Died of disease	Elandsfontein	Dec 20
,,	James, C H	,,	Brindisi	Dec 19
				1902.
Captain	Fowler, Sir Thomas	Killed	Moolman's Sprt	Apl 20
Private	Davies, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lloyd, N	,,	,,	,,
,,	McCarthy, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thomas, C O	,,	,,	,,
,,	Instone, F	Died of wounds	Harrismith	Mar 29
,,	Baker, H F	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Feb 17
Sergt	Eyles, W A	,,	Brindisi	Feb 11
R-S-M	Gardner, W H	,,	Harrismith	Mar 9
Private	Jones, J	,,	,,	Mar 11
,,	Lane, C H	,,	Bethlehem	Jan 24
,,	Talbot, J	,,	,,	Feb 12
R-Q-M-S	Temperton, J H	,,	,,	Mar 8
Private	Thomas, J W	,,	,,	Feb 28
,,	Rattenbur, J D	,,	Harrismith	,,
Corp	White, E P	,,	,,	Mar 8
Lieut	Rawes, F A M	Severely wnded	Moolman's Sprt	Apl 20
,,	Thain, E W	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Leonard, W H S	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Baker, H	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Baldwin, A F W	Slightly wnded	Tygerskloof	Jan 24
,,	Faggetter, A	,,	Moolman's Sprt	Apl 20
Corp	Forbes, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Fowler, H T	,,	Tygerskloof	Jan 24
,,	Harnett, W J	,,	Moolman's Sprt	Apl 20
,,	Jones, E C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lewington, E J	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Louden, W	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Mortimer, W E	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Q-M-S	Lloyd, A E	,,	,,	,,
Private	McGregor, W S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Perkins, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Strong, E	Prisoner	,,	,,
Bugler	Keeling, E E	Died of disease	Heilbron	Feb 21
Private	Smith, H N	Killed by Lghtng	Tafel Kop	Feb 20
,,	Harvey, E R	Died of disease	Pretoria	Mar 5
,,	O'Hare, W	,,	Bloemfontein	Apl 14

4th Battalion.

6th Co. (Stafford).

7th Co. (Leicester).

8th Co. (Derby).

28th Co. (Bedford).

41st Co. (Hants).

104th Co. (Derbyshire).

106th Co. (Staffordshire).

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Keenan, W H	Killed	Rooikrantz	July 15
,,	Dredge, S	,,	Senekal	May 26
Lieut	Johnson, R A	Wounded	,,	,,
Private	Roach, F O B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pike, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wolfenden, S G	,,	Thaba Nchu	May 6
,,	Johnson, L W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Percy, H	,,	Nr Viljoens Dft	May 26
,,	Robertson, C	,,	Olifants Nek	May 29
,,	Hayter, G	,,	Near Pretoria	June 4
,,	Shaw, P	Missing	,,	June 2
,,	Lucas, T	Prisoner	,,	June 7
,,	Harley, W H	Wounded	Senekal	June 26
,,	Webb, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Whelan, J	Prisoner	Nr Bethlehem	July 15
,,	Evans, T	Died of wounds	Nr Slabberts Nk	July 23
,,	Dawkins, J	Wounded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
Lieut	Clay, G A	,,	Slabberts Nek	July 23
L-Corp	Burnett, B	Severely wnded	Wakkerstroom	Apl 22
Private	Drake, J C	Slightly wnded	Thaba Nchu	May 5
,,	Berry, W	Killed	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Payne	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Brooks	,,	,,	,,
,,	Nunnelly, F	Slightly wnded	,,	May 28
,,	Harris, P V	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Jones, P	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Ashwell, J L	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Coleman, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Court, F A	,,	Klip Nek	June 12
,,	Urton, E	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Mew, G	Severely wnded	Biddulphsberg	May 28
,,	Dyer, W H	,,	,,	May 29
,,	Croxton, H	Died of disease	Johannesburg	July 20
,,	Drapper, P	Accd drowned	Dom Kop	May 23
,,	Perry, G H	Died of wounds	Vereeniging	June 5
Corp	Taylor, F G	Died of disease	At Sea	May 3
Trooper	Black, A	,,	Deelfontein	Apl 12
Private	Knight, J F	,,	(Not known)	May 30
,,	Cochrane	,,	Cape Town	May 22

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Hackney, W	Died	De Aar	June 25
,,	Bakewell, W H	Died of disease	Nr Springfontn	Apl 30
,,	Whitfield, W	Severely wnded	Kransfontein	Oct 28
Sh-Smith	Myatt, T	,,	Nr Kransfontein	,,
Private	Prince, J	,,	Nr Harrismith	Nov 10
,,	McCormack, P H	,,	Near Georgina	Nov 21
Lieut	Power, W S	Slightly wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Sept 12
Lieut-Col	Blair, F G	,,	Near Senekal	Sept 17
Private	Illsley, T H	,,	Lang Berg	Oct 26
,,	Andrews, V	,,	,,	Oct 29
,,	Frost, S	,,	Nr Harrismith	Nov 10
,,	Harrison, R	,,	Near Georgina	Nov 21
,,	Warren, C H	Died of wounds	Nr Johannesb'g	Oct 11
,,	Livingstone, D	Wounded	,,	Sept 22
Sergt	Lomas, W S	Died of disease	Harrismith	Aug 19
Private	Record, G S	,,	,,	Oct 21
Sergt	Hampton, E	Missing	Near Bank	Aug 23
Private	Stubbs, W	Died of disease	Mooi River	Dec 10
,,	Tayleur, A	,,	Harrismith	Dec 18
,,	Beswick, R	,,	Howick	Dec 25
,,	Holder, E H	,,	Harrismith	Dec 28
,,	Mills, T	,,	Mooi River	Dec 29
,,	Wise, W	,,	Van Reenen	,,
,,	Sellars, S	Accd wounded	Harrismith	Oct 14
,,	Fielden, E H	,,	,,	Oct 28
,,	Morris, W	,,	,,	Nov 20
Lieut	Spen, R N	Prisoner	Hoopstad	Oct 23
Private	Ferrand, A	Killed	Boschop	Sept 29
,,	Hamilton, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Southbeer, A J	,,	Klipfontein	Nov 1
L-Corp	Tennant, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Myers, F A	,,	Nr Harrismith	Nov 10
Corp	Gee, G	,,	Nr Georgina	Nov 21
Private	Pegg, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Spary, C J W	Severely wnded	Vrede	Oct 6
				1901.
Private	Bentley, E	Died of disease	Harrismith	Jan 10
,,	Ward, G W	,,	Howick	Jan 13
Corp	Gwynne, A G	Severely wnded	Mt Paul Farm	Jan 2
Private	Till, A G	Died of disease	Ladysmith	Jan 24
,,	Salt, L	,,	Mooi River	Jan 26
Sergt-Maj	McLaren, D	Severely wnded	Tigerkloof	Jan 28
Private	Jesson, J	,,	Honingsklip	Feb 5
,,	Davis, T	Killed	,,	,,
Coirp	Ross, G	Slightly wnded	Nr Harrismith	Feb 11
Private	Deaville, J	Died of disease	Standerton	Feb 17
,,	Bakewell, J E	Slightly wnded	Vrede	Mar 5
,,	Shelton, M C	Died of disease	Standerton	Mar 22
Sergt-Maj	McLaren, D M	,,	Bethlehem	Mar 21
Private	Easton, P	Severely wnded	Witkopjes	Apl 15
,,	Kirk, J J	Died of disease	Kroonstad	Apl 19
,,	Macklam, J	,,	,,	Apl 22
L-Corp	Pratt, W	Missing	Kromspruit	Apl 28

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901
Private	Hancock, W	Missing	Kromspruit	Apl 28
,,	Cameron, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Riches, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walpole, E	Died of disease	Kroonstad	May 1
,,	Huggins, E	,,	Springfontein	May 2
Captain	Clay, G A	Slightly wnded	Frankfort	May 4
Private	Bowman, R	Died of disease	Standerton	May 16
,,	Coates, H	,,	,,	May 17
,,	Miller, J	,,	Bloemfontein	May 19
,,	Wooley, F	,,	Kroonstad	May 23
,,	Kirk, H	,,	,,	May 29
,,	Baker, E	,,	,,	June 1
,,	Foxley, C	,,	,,	May 31
,,	Cox, F	,,	,,	June 10
,,	Selliers, J	Severely wnded	Nr Lindley	June 9
Lieut	Hulse, C W	Killed	Braklaagte	June 4
,,	Bennett, L A	Wounded	,,	,,
Captain	Longfield, W M	Killed	,,	,,
L-Corp	Wormack, T W	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Martin, J	Died of disease	Kroonstad	June 21
,,	Ward, H	Died of wounds	Driehoek	May 23
,,	Denny, W	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	Apl 24
,,	Oldfield, J F H	,,	,,	June 3
,,	Walmsley, T	Slightly wnded	Meergatfontein	June 23
Sergt	Cooke, C	Dangsly wnded	Wonderfontein	June 27
Private	Gillott, R G	Severely wnded	Driekloof	May 19
,,	Ward, H	Died of wounds	Driehoek	May 30
,,	Foster, T G	Died of disease	Standerton	June 3
Trooper	Wilberforce, A R	Dangsly wnded	Braklaagte	June 4
,,	Tobin, W	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Dean, W P	Died of wounds	,,	June 5
L-Corp	Fogg, G M F	Slightly wnded	,,	June 4
Private	Carryer, H S	Died of disease	Kroonstad	Aug 10
,,	Coles, E R	,,	Winburg	Sept 8
,,	Siddons, A G	Accd Killed	Vaal Bank	July 6
,,	Andrews, E G	Prisoner	Near Heilbron	July 12
,,	Sharman, R	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	Sept 18
,,	Foxton, J	,,	Elandsfontein	Nov 24
,,	Oldham, J B	,,	Klerksdorp	Dec 21
,,	Smith, E	Slightly wnded	Gannabridge	July 21
,,	Wood, W	Died of disease	Winburg	Sept 7
,,	Stokes, J	,,	Kroonstad	Dec 9
Sergt	Calder, D	Slightly wnded	,,	Dec 2
Lieut	Bryan, H W	Killed	Hardyville	Oct 22
Private	Sharpin, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Watson, G A	Died of shock (Following amputation, result of accident).	Pietermaritzbg	Oct 5
,,	Rees, J	Died of disease	Kroonstad	July 25
,,	Kirk, M	,,	,,	July 31
Lieut	Harper, J F	Killed	Driefontein, C C	Sept 10
Private	Eley, J T	,,	,,	,,
Q-M-Sergt	Vergette, H	,,	,,	,,
Corp	St Leger, A W	Severely wnded	Witnek	Nov 2
Private	Draper, T	Died of disease	Harrismith	Sept 14

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1902
Private	Allport, J	Died of disease	Kroonstad	Feb 13
,,	Collins, E	,,	,,	Jan 14
,,	Harding, C	,,	,,	Jan 29
,,	Thompson, B H	,,	,,	Feb 3
,,	Chambers, C	,,	,,	Feb 7
,,	Grey, L	,,	,,	Feb 9
,,	Juggins, R	,,	,,	Feb 10
L-Sergt	Wren, T W	Severely wnded	Nr Fraserburg	Feb 2
Private	Warn, W R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morrell, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Godwin, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rimington, H S	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Eccleshare, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cropps, H W G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wood, J T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Knight, J A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cooper, V	,,	,,	,,
,,	Garrett, A E	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Lempriere, G P	Prisoner	,,	,,
Corp	Irons	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lacey	,,	,,	,,
Private	Tillson	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wardle	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harrows	,,	,,	,,
,,	Meadowcroft	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wildsmith	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dew	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wandley	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Kiddey	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Ward	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pountney	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mayne, W	Died of disease	Winburg	Feb 17
Private	Channing, E	,,	Kroonstad	Feb 18
,,	Lancaster, F H	,,	,,	Feb 22
,,	McNab, W	,,	,,	Feb 23
Lieut	Pratt-Barlow, F H	,,	Lindley	Feb 26
Private	Lynn, T	Slightly wnded	Nr Klerksdorp	Feb 25
,,	Youldon, G	Died of disease	Kroonstad	Feb 10
,,	Brett, F G	,,	Lindley	Feb 11
,,	Partridge, A	,,	Kroonstad	Mar 12
,,	Vincent, T	Severely wnded	Nr Modderfntn	Mar 11
,,	Southcott, J	Died of disease	Springfontein	Feb 15
,,	Purdy, A H	,,	Norval's Pont	Mar 19
,,	Pemberton, A G	,,	Lindley	,,
Q-M-Sergt	Cunningham, J R	,,	Harrismith	Mar 20
L-Corp	Nugent, J	,,	Kroonstad	Mar 21
Private	Jewitt, R	,,	,,	Mar 29
,,	Barnes, H	,,	Norval"s Pont	Mar 30
,,	Morley, J S	,,	Bloemfontein	Mar 31
Corp	Ongley, F	,,	Kroonstad	Apl 28
Private	Hayes, W	,,	Bloemfontein	May 12
,,	Oxley, R	,,	Lindley	Mar 3
,,	Barron, G W	,,	Kroonstad	Mar 14
L-Corp	Pearce-Brown, T	,,	,,	Feb 2

11th Battalion.

33rd Co. (East Kent).
34th Co. (Middlesex).
35th Co. (Middlesex).
36th Co. (West Kent).
53rd Co. (East Kent).
62nd Co. (Middlesex).
112th Co. (Middlesex).

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date* 1900.
Lieut	Guthrie, G B	Died of disease	Naauwport	May 16
Private	Bond, J	Killed	Lilliefontein	June 26
,,	Bruce, E	Wounded	,,	,,
Colr-Sergt	Edmondson, R	Missing	,,	,,
Sergt	Morley, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kearns, G M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mitchell, G	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Barrow, T M	,,	,,	,,
Trooper	White, W H	,,	,,	,,
Sh-Smith	Craig, S J	,,	,,	,,
Private	Bolton, F A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chapman, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fitt, A K	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Gordon, T J	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Hartley, J A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jones, F H	,,	,,	,,
,,	McCullum, G	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	McKay, G	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Sadd, T A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Strong, W F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Scarlett, H P	Prisoner	,,	,,
Sergt	Tomlin, R	,,	Senekal	May 25
,,	Nicholl, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Scott, F W	,,	,,	,,
Sergt-Farr	Meek, F W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Blyth, W E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Heley, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lee, F J B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Richards, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Robertson, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walker, N	,,	,,	,,
,,	McIlraith, J C	,,	,,	,,
Sh-Smith	Weedon, J F	,,	,,	,,
Private	Lee, T	,,	,,	,,
Major	Dalbiac, H S	Killed	,,	,,
Trooper	Deane, H S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Unwin R	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Shells, F W	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Kennard, E C	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Trooper	Agnew, H	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Webster, G W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Weisberg, A	,,	,,	,,
Private	Forsey, J G	Slightly wnded	Klip Drift	June 7
,,	Grout, G	Killed	Klip Nek	June 14

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900
Private	Banks, J	Dangsly wnded	Klip Nek	June 14
Sergt	Harmer, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Greenhalgh, H C	Wounded	Winburg	July 15
Private	Barkinshaw, C H	Slightly wnded	Willow Grange	July 23
,,	Frost, W H	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Kearns, G M	,,	Thaba N'chu	May 7
Private	Slater, P	,,	Bezuidenhouts Kraal	May 23
,,	Cooper, A B	Missing	Thaba N'chu	May 7
,,	Ingram, T	Severely wnded	,,	May 15
Corp	Barton, F	Wounded	Nr Bethlehem	Sept 22
Private	Groome, R	,,	Elandskop	Sept 28
,,	Rhodes, G A	Killed	Near Vrede	Nov. 6
Corp	Thornton, C	Wounded	,,	,,
Private	Trembart, A C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Broom, N J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Newman, L	,,	,,	,,
,,	Edwards, J	,,	Vrede	Nov 9
Sergt	Scott, F W	,,	Cornelis R	Nov 20
Captain	Denman, Lord T	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Gray, F C	,,	Newmarket	Nov 19
L-Corp	Morgan, J	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Napier, B	Mortally wnded	Near Senekal	Dec 27
Lieut	Lewin, J	Prisoner	Nr Bloemfontein	Aug 18
Private	Chamberlain, G	Died of disease	Harrismith	Nov 19
,,	McIlwraith, J	,,	Reitz	Dec 17
Farr-Ser	Mitchell, M	,,	Winburg	Dec 24
Sergt	Wood, F J	,,	Harrismith	Dec 27
Private	Harrison, T E	,,	Winburg	Dec 26
,,	Scott, T A	,,	,,	Dec 30
				1901.
Private	Fortescue, C S	Died of disease	Winburg	Jan 2
L-Corp	Smith, F	,,	,,	Jan 4
Private	Moore, B	,,	Frankfort	Jan 1
,,	Fawcett, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Blyth, W E	,,	Winburg	Jan 12
Private	Glover, W	Accd wnded	Doorn River	Jan 13
,,	Collard, A L	Died of disease	Heilbron	Jan 14
Corp	McIlwraith, J H	,,	Winburg	Jan 22
Lieut	Palmer, A	Slightly wnded	Rietpan	Jan 6
Private	Sadd, T A	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Coad, R S	Died of disease	Harrismith	Jan 22
Private	France, A	,,	Heilbron	Feb 3
,,	Ramshaw, R	,,	Harrismith	Jan 31
,,	Dearle, E	,,	Howick	Feb 8
,,	Blount, C W	,,	Mooi River	Feb 16
,,	Wildash, I	,,	Kroonstad	,,
,,	Heenan, C R	Slightly wnded	Nr Fouriesburg	Feb 20
,,	Walker, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wood, A E	Severely wnded	Near Heilbron	Feb 28
Sergt	Fairbairn, G	Died of disease	Harrismith	Mar 12
Private	Kennard, R	Drowned	Clocolan	Apl 2
,,	Boughton, J	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Edwards, P C	Dangsly wnded	,,	Apl 4
Private	Spicer, H M	Severely wnded	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Corp	Ralli, E L	Slightly wnded	Clocolan	Apl 4
Private	Field, G	Died of disease	Heilbron	Apl 6
,,	Fleming, C P	Wounded	Nr Ficksburg	Apl 15
,,	Lee, T	Died of disease	Ficksburg	Apl 16
,,	Smart, T J	,,	Bloemfontein	,,
,,	Collings, H W	Slightly wnded	Near Heilbron	May 4
,,	Waters, D J	Prisoner	Unknown	Unknown
Corp	Langley, A	,,	,,	,,
Private	Wilson, D W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stevens, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Baker, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Horrabin, A	Died of disease	Heilbron	May 15
,,	Aldridge, H	,,	,,	May 20
,,	Heath, A	,,	Harrismith	May 21
,,	Maisey, W	,,	Germiston	May 24
,,	O'Shea, G	,,	Heilbron	May 27
,,	Westley, G W	,,	Bethlehem	Mar 2
Corp	Owen, F H	,,	,,	May 29
Private	Bradley, E	,,	Ficksburg	May 31
,,	Lawrence, A	,,	Harrismith	June 4
Sergt	Power, W	,,	Heilbron	June 6
Private	Shoesmith, H	,,	Harrismith	June 8
,,	Wild, J	,,	Heilbron	June 10
,,	McCombe, W	Accd wnded	,,	,,
,,	Thompson, D	Died of disease	,,	June 11
,,	Hamilton, H	,,	,,	May 10
Lieut	Smith, P B	Mortally wnded	,,	May 30
Private	Knust, A E	Died of disease	Bethlehem	June 5
,,	Wing, E	,,	Heilbron	June 14
,,	Grist, C F	,,	Harrismith	June 17
,,	Goodman, L W	,,	Bethlehem	June 18
,,	Billingham, W	Missing	Nr Elands River	June 15
,,	Webster, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Weller, G F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Goggins, M	Died of disease	Bethlehem	June 22
Sergt	Kilsey, H B	,,	Heilbron	June 30
,,	Bushell, S H	,,	Elands River	June 24
L-Corp	Machochie, W	Slightly wnded	Nr Sterkstroom	June 17
Trooper	Curley, H	Severely wnded	Nr Rietfontein	June 25
Corp	Smith, W W	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Jasper, E R	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Johnson, A	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Trooper	Lapham, T	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Captain	Cooper, L P	Killed	Driespruit	July 23
Private	Cornish, G	Died of disease	Heilbron	July 2
,,	Fraser, C	Slightly wnded	,,	July 19
,,	Chinnock, T W	Died of disease	,,	July 21
,,	Andrews, F J	Killed	Near Heilbron	July 23
,,	Wood, A J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Moon, R	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Moon, R	Mortally wnded	,,	Aug 23
,,	Graves, F M	Slightly wnded	Near Georgina	Aug 10
,,	Morton, W H	,,	Near Heilbron	Sept 17
Crop	Hunt, P A	,,	,,	Nov 4

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date* 1901.
Private	Collins, C L	Slightly wnded	Rietfontein	Nov 5
,,	Medlor, W	Accd wnded	Aagans	Nov 12
L-Corp	Williams, J B	Died of disease	Heilbron	Dec 1
,,	Ebbsworth, A	,,	Nr Rietfontein	,,
Private	Kirk, F	,,	Heilbron	Dec 18
,,	Ellis, W	Killed	Nr Harrismith	July 28
Corp	Bennett, W H	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Leishman, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Field, S W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Turner, J Y	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walters, F C	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
Lieut	Stutfield	Prisoner	,,	,,
Sergt	Campbell, E J	,,	,,	,,
Bugler	Shell, W G	,,	,,	,,
Private	Winch, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bunning, W J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jelwin, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lockyer, C E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Waysln, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Edward, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Taylor, G H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Foreman, W A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Nunan, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Unwin, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fowler, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Denny, C W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Grant, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cregan, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Foxwell, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tyrer, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Welsh, T L	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hurbert, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Richards, E D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Donovan, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wynham, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, S A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harwood, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hill, J G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tobin, G S	,,	,,	,,
,,	James, F B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tozer, W	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Moore, C H	Killed	Harrismith	July 28
Private	Astell, H J	Prisoner	,,	,,
Corp	Jones, J	Severely wnded	Bethlehem	Dec 16
Private	Symth, A W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Barkway, J	Died of disease	Pinetown Brdg	Dec 18
,,	Godwin, J	Mortally wnded	Nr Harrismith	July 28
,,	Hobbs, W	Severely wnded	Nr Slangfontn	Aug 29
,,	Martin, A	,,	Nr Elands River	Aug 30
,,	Weller, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Betts, E	Killed	Near Langsberg	Dec 18
,,	Bellingham, W	Slightly wnded	Nr Elands River	Aug 9
,,	Mortimer, W	Died of disease	Harrismith	Dec 30
,,	Stewart, B C	Missing	Mill River Bdg	July 5

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Hymes, T	Severely wnded	Cornelis River	July 6
Corp	Sandy, P	,,	Newmarket	July 8
Private	Panton, E	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Wyatt-Edgell, M R A	,,	Nr Bothasberg	July 12
Sergt	Rolfe, A	,,	,,	,,
Private	Hamm, F	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Pidgeon, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Horner, J H	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Filmer, H D	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Graves, F M	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Shaw, E W	Killed	Nr Harrismith	July 27
,,	Brazil, S	Severely wnded	Near Georgina	Aug 10
,,	Strauss, L	,,	Aratully's Farm	Aug 18
,,	Wright, J L	Missing	Olivershoek Pass	Sept 18
Private	Aush, C	Slightly wnded	Olivershoek Pass	Sept 28
,,	Walters, S	,,	Gannabridge	July 21
,,	Griffiths, E G	,,	Georgina	Aug 17
,,	Stock, G P	Prisoner	Harrismith	July 28
Lieut	Loraine, P L	Slightly wnded	Elands River	Aug 30
Private	Johnson, S	Severely wnded	Slangfontein	Aug 29
Corp	Butler, H	Killed	,,	,,
Private	Smith, F	Missing	Villiersrust	Aug 25
Lieut	Clementi-Smith, E	Died of wounds	Georgina	Oct 4
Private	Sprules, A E	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Ridout, E J	Died of disease	Elandsfontein	Sept 19
,,	Dawson, E P	Killed	Mooimaises	Sept 30
L-Corp	Harbert, H	Missing	Glenlennie	Oct 2
Private	Haughton, A	Prisoner	Tigers Kloof	Aug 29
,,	Hird, G A	Missing	Olivershoek Pass	Dec 11
,,	Forster, F W	Dangsly wnded	Olivershoek Pass	Dec 11
,,	Edwards, A R	Slightly wnded	Near Pretoria	Aug 28
,,	Lill, J W	Died of disease	Pretoria	Sept 16
,,	Frazer, W	Aced wnded	Rustenburg	Nov 10
,,	Sharman, W V	Died of disease	Pretoria	Nov 1
,,	Brown, G	,,	,,	Dec 6
,,	Roderford, H	Killed	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Bond, R W	,,	,,	,,
,,	South, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bird, F C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jones, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kent, M R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Weeks, W	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Tyler	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Davis, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Abel, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Davies, T R	,,	,,	,,
Private	Mannering, F	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Collins	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Cory, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gray, G E	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Boulger, F J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stevens, E	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Gorham, J	Severely wnded	Tweefontein	Dec 25
Sergt	Ibbs, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Thirkell, H P	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Morris, W A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Castle, F	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Collins, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Butler, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bettsworth, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Knott, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chudleigh, J S	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Lilley, C	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Hudson, S	Killed	,,	,,
Corp	Massey, A	,,	,,	,,
Private	McDonald, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lambert, G A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Coombes, E	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Jonin, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Williams, H G	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Captain	Hall, S E	Killed	,,	,,
Lieut	Agnew, H M	,,	,,	,,
Sergt-Maj	Reed, J	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Hewitson, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Painting, W	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Snook, A E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Stott, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kedge, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bunning, W J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Meyer, B T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Parry, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stringer, F J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Unwin, H G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, G D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mackender, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cooper, J D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Densham, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Laity, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Campbell, E J	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Herbert, J	Died of wounds	,,	,,
Private	Nunan, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lowndes, R	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Harding, B G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Denny, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smythe, C	,,	,,	,,
Bugler	Lewcock, R J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Lieut	Stutfield, M	,,	,,	,,
Private	Warren, W C	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Hill, J G	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Rennie, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, H A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mills, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hanson, G R	,,	,,	,,
Private	Hanniken, A J C	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Ward, H T	Slightly wnded	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Corp	Brown, M	Slightly wnded	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Rowe, F H	Dangaly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Grist	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Ward, F E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Scott, W E	Dangaly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Gundry, C	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Harding, J J	,,	,,	,,
Private	Collard, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pearson, T A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Swayne, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pidgeon, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davis, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wilson, H	Killed	,,	,,
Sergt-Maj	Mahon, J	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Strand, J	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Ackhurst, H S	,,	,,	,,
Private	Dersley, C H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dack, W G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rumfit, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hopkins, W J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Orchin, P J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Clapton, M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sanson, J W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davies, F A	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Hill, A G	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Private	Garrett, C W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tanner, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thomas, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Phillips, W	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Smith, H P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Scott, M G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Farnish, S	,,	,,	,,
Captain	Crawley, H H S	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
Lieut	Parsons, H G	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Mowatt, O	,,	,,	,,
Qr-M-Ser	Nicol, B	,,	,,	,,
Sergt-Maj	Pearson, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Whitta, T E	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Searle, C G	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Signaller	Gilkes, J	Acod injured	,,	,,
Private	Carney, C	Died of wounds	,,	,,
,,	Hutchings, C	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Pitter, J F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Keats, A S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hesse, J	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	McLean, A E	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	French, C A	Dangaly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Cunningham, W	Prisoner	,,	,,
Private	Thomson, G	Dangaly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Cox E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lane, H J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Jameson, J T	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Dorey, R	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Private	Monk, C A	Slightly wnded	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Johnson	Mortally wnded	Tweefontein	Dec. 25
,,	O'Brien, J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Stennet, H M	Prisoner	,,	,,
Lieut	Watney, J S	Killed	,,	,,
Private	Hellyer, F H	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Milton, J A	,,	,,	,,
Capt & Adj	Grice, G	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
	(Attached from Scottish Rifles.)			
Lt & Qr-Mr	Langley, F	Prisoner	,,	,,
Sergt	Burrell, E	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Ford, H F W L	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lynch, E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Bryon, B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thompson, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harrison, C S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Williams, H	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Mordin, A J	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Dunstall, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Baynes, E	,,	,,	,,
Private	McDonald, J A N	,,	,,	,,
,,	Eccles, V G H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Currie, H E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gant, F G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Broadway, A J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Nicholl, B G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rose, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ask, J J	,,	,,	,,
Q-M-Ser	Fowler, H C	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Hughes	,,	,,	,,
Private	Grant, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Griffin, E A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Upfield, G	,,	,,	,,
Bugler	Plyer, A E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Turner, E M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fowler, T J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Whatcott, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lynch, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wetherell, T E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Frozer, J W	,,	,,	,,
,,	French, A W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rawlings, J S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Styles, R W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Brown, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Newport, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sears, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wakeling, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wigmore, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davis, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Maclin, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mander, E	,,	,,	,,
Farr-Maj	Pennie, F H	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Nicholls, P F	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Hunt, W F	,,	,,	,,
Sh-Smith	Bourne, F H	,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Sparrow, D	Prisoner	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Ladey, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Axtell, H G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gouldworthy, C H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Worrall, C A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cradock, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tagg, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Brady, W K	,,	,,	,,
,,	Corvell, R J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Witham, E G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Millar, G L	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walsh, T E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Skiel, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Byan, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kirkwood, C J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Grinson, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davis, B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Delisle, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Giles, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Haclett, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cartland, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Deyton, T G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tingall, H	,,	,,	,,
Sergt-Maj	Godwin, A W	,,	,,	,,
Q-M-Sergt	Clifford, E	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Wakeford, M S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wilmore, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dean, H	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Little, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bonny, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morley, C S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pearman, J T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sewel, G O T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fremlin, E J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Williams, G J	,,	,,	,,
Private	Whiching, G A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Breeze, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Francis, A R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Apples, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lopper, A E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sharper, A E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Clement, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Honey, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Richardson, A R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hedworth, O	,,	,,	,,
,,	Huntley, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Merry, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Charlton, A T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jackson, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Clawburn, C L	,,	,,	,,
,,	Turner, A G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lemens, C C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Phillips, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Laster, J W	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Delarne, E	Prisoner	Tweefontein	Dec 25.
,,	Meagre, A	,,	,,	,
,,	Turner, D G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bish, W E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Braybrooke, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Goddard, E J E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stokes, P G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Birchell, E C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wilson, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Monks, O	,,	,,	,,
,,	Browne, G A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rossen, C A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Symes, H H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gregory, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Slace, F F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gillingham	,,	,,	,,
,,	Brown, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Warner, A M P H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Moor, W R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chettle, A J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rains, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Barry, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morley, A S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ayres, G H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Oughton, W A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stule, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, H D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morris, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Webster, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morris, A W	,,	,,	,,
Farr-Ser	Stephenson, W	,,	,,	,,
Staff-Ser	Pound, F J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Nicholls, F	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Sakling, H R	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Guest, J	,,	,,	,,
Private	Nash, C.	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wall, F. W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sigley, G F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Keyte, S W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harris, G T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Perkins, F G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Foster, W J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Coates, A G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Padwell, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Herlow, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Carter, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hatsorn, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hulse, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gibb, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Malley, O	,,	,,	,,
,,	Webster, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Follett, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Southon, W J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fenning, J	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date* 1901.
Private	Hartsford, W H	Prisoner	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Rolf, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fry, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Winfield, F G	,,	,,	,,
				1902
,,	Corner, W	Died of disease	Elandsfontein	Feb 9
L-Corp	Redshaw, G	,,	Bethlehem	Feb 11
Private	Cross, H H	,,	Harrismith	Feb 5
,,	Stevens, H	,,	Ladysmith	Feb 28
,,	McArthur, W	,,	Elandsfontein	Feb 8
,,	Goldsworthy, C H	,,	Newcastle	Feb 28
Farr-Ser	Long, M	,,	Harrismith	Mar 6
Sh-Smith	Thompsett, F C	,,	Newcastle	Mar 10
Private	Gilkes, J E	,,	Mooi River	Mar 14
,,	Powell, J	Died of wounds	Newcastle	Apl 24
Corp	Mummery, E	Died of disease	,,	Apl 5
Private	Smith, J	,,	,,	Apl 12
Sergt	White, T W	Severely wnded	Wagnmkrs Vlei	May 6
Private	Rowland, T	Died of disease	Kroonstad	Jan 6
,,	Green, J	,,	Norval's Pont	Feb 6
,,	Hall, J	,,	Elandsfontein	Mar 10
,,	Woolford, C J	,,	,,	Mar 13
Lieut	De Guérin, C S W	,,	Norval's Pont	Feb 11
Farr-Ser	Williams, W	,,	Krugersdrop	May 26

A Monument has been erected to the Memory of all Officers, N.C.O's, and Men of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, who died in South Africa.

The Obelisk stands in the Garden to the left of the Town Hall, Harrismith, O.R.C.

GRENADIER GUARDS.

2nd Battalion.

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Lt-Col	Lloyd, F, CB	Wounded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
Lieut	Parker, Hon M B	,,	Thaba N'chu	Apl 30
Captain	Verschoyle, E J	Mortally wnded	,,	May 5
,,	Bonham, G L	Wounded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
Cap & Adj	Corkran, C E	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Seymour, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Murray, A H	,,	,,	,,
Private	Coaley, F	,,	Thaba N'chu	Apl 30
,,	James, J	Died of disease	,,	May 10
,,	Church	,,	Cape Town	May 18

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Finnigan, T	Wounded	Thaba N'chu	May 1
,,	Leah, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Richardson, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Leslie, C	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	June 23
,,	Beresford, W	Missing	Thaba N'chu	May 10
,,	McManns	Mortally wnded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Doherty, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wallis, J	Died of disease	Winburg	June 15
,,	Addington, H	,,	Senekal	June 17
L-Corp	Brooks, J	,,	,,	June 19
Private	Boyes, H	,,	Springfontein	June 21
L-Corp	Peddle, C	,,	Hammonia	June 18
Private	Jefferies, W	Died of burns	Deelfontein	June 25
Corp	Rogers, R W	Died of wounds	,,	June 30
Private	Coates, F	Wounded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Atkins, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pounds, H	Died of disease	Deelfontein	July 24
,,	Sullivan, J	Wounded	Rooikranz	July 23
,,	Treasure J	Died of disease	Senekal	July 27
,,	Dunnett	Wounded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	James, F	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	June 1
,,	Cresley, W	,,	Reitfontein	July 6
,,	Cope, E	Killed	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Hyett. C	,,	,,	,,
Colr-Serg	Jenkins A L	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Summers. J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gould, J	,,	,,	,,
Private	Findlay. J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Gregg, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bardill J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Havey, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Poller, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Strutt, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Booth, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kelly, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Squires, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thorpe, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cowley, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lloyd, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Powell J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Eager, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hall H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ball, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Garrett, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sheffield, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hodkinson, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Barrett. T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Betteridge, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chisholm, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davis, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hooper, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fudge, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Day, W	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date* 1900.
Private	McNilly, J	Killed	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Mason, A	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Wood, E	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
L-Corp	Maile, H	Wounded	,,	,,
Private	Crowte, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Keeting, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cooper, A	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Atkins, R	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Clarke, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Marriott, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sweeney, M	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Cooke, F A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Brown, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hillsdon, H	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Holt, T	Died of wounds	,,	June 21
L-Corp	Dickens, W	Wounded	,,	May 29
,,	Elsworth, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tomkinson, K	,,	,,	,,
Drummer	Haines, D	,,	,,	,,
Private	Pound, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mitchell, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Watson, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Herbert, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rylance, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tree, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Osgood, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Nix, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Barratt, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Trinn, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Scarborough, L D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hart, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Allen, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Moore, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wolstenholme, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Williams, J	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Trim, C	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
Private	Hodge, E	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Russell, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kitchener, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tucker, W	,,	,,	,,
Drummer	Clow, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Smart, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bailey, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bevan, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chappell, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morgan, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pilkington, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kendrick, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thompson, H	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Smith, H	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Parks, A	,,	,,	,,
Private	Bond, R	,,	,,	

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Hunt, H	Wounded	Buddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Bush, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Osbourne, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Coster, M	,,	,,	,,
,,	McClelland, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thompson, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Swift, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hamlet, M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Higginbotham, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wakefield, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sylvester, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Conway M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Crook, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Thomas, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Edwards, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tebbutt, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sargeant, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Goodridge, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Miller, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jones, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	McCormack, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Clarke, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cockerham, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fowler, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Carter, J	,,	,,	,,
Sergt-Dr	Gates, B	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Colladine, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Potter, J	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Jenkins, J	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Palmer, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Johnson, G	,,	,,	,,
Private	Dyke, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Helyer, E	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Thorley, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Priddy, W	Missing	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Cox, P	Prisoner	,,	,,
Private	Chandler, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fisher, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hopes, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pancourt, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harnston, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Flynn, S	Prisoner & wnded	,,	,,
,,	Read, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Crane, J	Died of disease	Naauwpoort	June 24
,,	James, F	,,	Bloemfontein	June 1
,,	Grant, W	,,	,,	June 6
,,	Thompson, J	,,	Senekal	June 12
,,	Cresty, W	,,	Riet Vlei	July 6
,,	Hickson, A	,,	Harrismith	Aug 24
,,	Roberts, G	,,	Vrede	Oct 12
,,	Leader, E	,,	Mooi River	Aug 26
,,	Cooper, E	,,	Winburg	Aug 30
,,	Hale, S	,,	Bloemfontein	Oct 19
,,	Flynn, S	,,	Pretoria	Oct 15

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900
Private	O'Brien, J	Wounded	Vrede	Oct 7
,,	Seaman, R	,,	,,	Oct 12
,,	Couldrey, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walton, J	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Proctor, G	,,	,,	,,
Private	White, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Helme, W	,,	Vaalplaatz	Oct 26
,,	Furniss, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Sigsworth, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Blower, R M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Read, H	Died of disease	Harrismith	Nov 8
,,	Dixon, J	,,	,,	Dec 17
,,	Spear, G	,,	,,	Dec 13
L-Corp	Everitt, A	,,	,,	Dec 14
Private	Sellen, G	,,	,,	Dec 16
,,	Lewis, J	,,	,,	Dec 17
Sergt	Way, F	,,	Mooi River	Nov 27
Private	Linskill, J	Slightly wnded	Harrismith	Dec 3
Captain	Cavendish, Hon	Injured shoulder	,,	Dec 15
Private	Houghton, H	Died of disease	Mooi River	Dec 23
Drummer	Cook, T	,,	,,	Dec 27
Private	Jacob, T	,,	Howick	Dec 28
				1901
,,	Greenwood, H	,,	Harrismith	Jan 3
,,	Irwin, W	,,	Ladysmith	Jan 8
,,	Bailey, G	,,	Howick	Jan 6
L-Sergt	Craddock, R H	Died of disease	Harrismith	Jan 11
Private	Tilley, A	,,	Howick	Jan 12
,,	Gotheridge, G	,,	,,	Jan 13
,,	Turner, F J	,,	Harrismith	Jan 15
,,	Perry, J	Slightly wnded	Mount Paul Fm	Jan 6
,,	Holgate, D	Died of disease	Howick	Feb 1
,,	Pratt, C	,,	Ladysmith	Jan 30
,,	Burnes, T	Severely wnded	Holland	Feb 5
,,	Price, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hallworth, J	Died of disease	Ladysmith	Feb 17
,,	Farrant, H	,,	Standerton	Feb 27
L-Corp	Glinane, S	Slightly wnded	Nr Standerton	Feb 20
Private	Bailey, W	Died of disease	Howick	Feb 24
,,	Moss, J	,,	,,	Mar 1
,,	Massey, J	,,	Harrismith	Mar 5
,,	Wilson, H	,,	Standerton	Mar 9
,,	Smith, S	,,	,,	Mar 10
,,	Radford, C	,,	,,	Mar 19
Sergt	Thomas, J	,,	,,	Apl 4
,,	Kirkpatrick, W J	,,	Ladysmith	Apl 12
2nd Lieut	Tryon, G T L	,,	Harrismith	Apl 24
Private	McNeill, T	,,	Standerton	Apl 29
,,	Hamer, J	,,	,,	Apl 30
Sergt	Vickery, W	,,	Harrismith	May 5
Corp	Nicholls, H	,,	,,	May 8
Private	Kemp, J	,,	Standerton	May 14

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1901.
Private	Storkey, W	Died of disease	Harrismith	May 18
,,	Hubbard, A	,,	,,	May 19
,,	Percival, A	,,	,,	May 22
,,	Robins, M	,,	,,	May 25
,,	Fletcher, W	,,	,,	May 27
,,	Williams, H	,,	Ficksburg	May 17
Sergt	Fryer, F	,,	Harrismith	June 7
Private	Griffiths, J	,,	,,	June 15
Corp	Ireland, W	Slightly wnded	,,	Feb 5
Private	Brown, J	,,	Fouriesburg	May 16
Lieut	Quilter, J A C	,,	Nr Brandwater Spruit, ORC	Aug 13
Corp	Clark, C	Dangsly wnded	Nr Fouriesburg	Nov 23
Private	Brown, M	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Hawker, E	Killed	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Stannett, E	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Dec 31
Lieut	Douglas-Pennant Hon G H	Prisoner	Tweefontein	Dec 25
				1902
2nd Lieut	Meeking, KCE	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Feb 2
Lieut	Colston, E M	Slightly wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Feb 9
L-Sergt	Daniels, H	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Jan 26
Private	Norris, W	,,	,,	Feb 18
,,	Tate, C	,,	Harrismith	,,
L-Sergt	Griffin, C	,,	Bethlehem	Mar 2
Private	Fuller, J	,,	,,	Mar 4
,,	Short, F	,,	,,	Mar 29
,,	Weston, C	,,	,,	Apl 8
,,	Grogan, P	,,	,,	Apl 10
,,	Haffenden, A	,,	,,	May 6

SCOTS GUARDS.

2nd Battalion.

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900.
Private	Prest, J	Slightly wnded	Wakkerstroom	Apl 22
,,	Spiers, G	,,	,,	Apl 23
,,	Sinclair, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Didsbury, G	,,	,,	,,
Major	Romilly, F W	,,	Biddulphsberg	May 29
Private	McKay, W	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Hall, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Brown, R	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Schuard, F	,,	,,	,,
Private	Lambert, J	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	MacIntyre, E C	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Owen, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Parkinson, H	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900
Private	Bellwood, A	Severely wnded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
,,	Fairbottam, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hewitt, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kendal, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Lowther, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Forbes, W B	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Elsey, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Clark, T	,,	,,	,,
Drummer	Clark, C	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Buick, T	,,	,,	,,
Private	Baildon, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cutten, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chapman, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kinniburg, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Greenock, M	Died of disease	Senekal	June 6
,,	Wells, J	,,	,,	July 13
L-Corp	Downey, T	Severely wnded	Willow Grange	July 23
Private	Whiting, J	Died of disease	Dewetsdorp	Apl 26
,,	McEvoy, F	,,	Springfontein	June 3
,,	Prest, A	,,	Bloemfontein	June 6
,,	White, A	,,	Winburg	June 7
,,	Wright, Wm	,,	At sea	June 3
,,	Fox, W	,,	Winburg	June 13
L-Sergt	Reid	,,	Bloemfontein	,,
Private	Davis, W	,,	,,	June 17
,,	Chapman, A	,,	Springfontein	July 3
,,	McIntee, J	,,	Norvalspont	,,
,,	Campbell, D	,,	Bloemfontein	July 4
,,	Hall, H	,,	Deelfontein	July 13
,,	Cross, M H	,,	Cape Town	July 23
,,	Hullah	,,	Senekal	,,
,,	Steer, J	Killed	Slapkranz	July 28
2nd Lieut	Alston, F G	Wounded	,,	,,
Private	Clarke, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pimperton, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bowditch, H W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Freeman, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Garrity, B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bleckburn, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Craig, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dallard, W	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	July 31
,,	Brown, A	Died at sea	SS. "Britannic"	Mar 26
,,	Smart	Died of disease	Not stated	May 27
,,	Jones, F	Died of disease	Norvalspont	Aug 27
,,	Watkins, G J	,,	Standerton	Oct 10
,,	Eade, G	,,	Senekal	Sept 20
,,	Birtwhistle, J	,,	Harrismith	Nov 17
,,	Balmer, J	,,	,,	Dec 3
,,	Williams, W	,,	,,	Dec 4
,,	Harrison, Z	,,	,,	Dec 10
,,	Hey, W	,,	,,	Dec 28
,,	Allen, J	Killed	Nr Bethlehem	Sept 22
,,	Houston, A	,,	Lombardskop	Oct 26

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900
Private	Holmes, H	Killed	Lombardskop	Oct 26
,,	Wilson, E	,,	Tiger Kloof	Nov 22
Lieut	Southey, A M	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	Robertson, F	Mortally wnded	Lombardskop	Nov 26
Private	Hamilton, W	Wounded	Vrede	Oct 12
,,	Grimshaw, T	,,	,,	,,
2nd Lieut	Grosvenor, Lord G	,,	Lombardskop	Oct 26
Corp	Crossthwaite, E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Healey, L	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dendy, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Calvey, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Morrison, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Perkins, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pocock, C H	,,	,,	,,
Major	Hanbury, E	,,	Tiger Kloof	Nov 22
Private	Anderson, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harby, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bakes, J	Missing	Nr Bethlehem	Nov 20
Corp	Rogers, S	Wounded	Tafelkop	Oct 3
Private	Churchill, A	,,	Vrede	Oct 12
,,	Firkins, T	Died of disease	Senekal	Aug 4
,,	Grey, G	,,	Mooi River	Dec 27
				1901
,,	Robertson, J	,,	Harrismith	Jan 10
,,	Mitchell, R	,,	,,	Jan 12
,,	Schroder, W	,,	Howick	Jan 9
,,	Jonas, F	,,	Harrismith	Jan 15
,,	McIntosh, G	,,	,,	Jan 18
,,	Young, W	,,	,,	Jan 19
,,	Sealey, E	,,	,,	Jan 25
,,	Smith, E	,,	,,	Jan 26
,,	Currie, C	,,	Hospital train, Pinetown	Jan 25
Sergt	Lyons, H	,,	Harrismith	Jan 28
Private	Jackson, C	,,	Mooi River	Jan 28
,,	Barker, A	,,	Harrismith	Feb 2
Sergt	Christian, F	,,	,,	Feb 13
,,	Gauld, G	,,	Pinetown Bdge	Feb 14
Private	Bardoe, C	,,	Howick	Feb 22
Corp	Crawshay, H	,,	Harrismith	Feb 28
Private	Farrow, F	,,	Howick	Mar 4
,,	Wilson, C H	,,	Harrismith	Mar 14
,,	Foster, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Teviotdale, A	,,	,,	Mar 22
,,	Porter, D	,,	Mooi River	Apl 7
L-Srgt	Dawson, A	,,	Harrismith	Apl 11
Private	Conway, J	,,	,,	Apl 16
,,	Plowman, A	,,	,,	Apl 27
Corp Piper	Hay, A	,,	,,	Apl 23
L-Sergt	Smith, J W	,,	,,	May 22
Private	Steele, A	,,	,,	June 15
Lieut	Brodie, A	Slightly wnded	Retiefs Nek	May 28
Private	Holloway, D	Severely wnded	Nr Fouriesburg	May 5

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date.
				1901.
Private	Keel, E	Severely wnded	Sevastopol	June 4
,,	Pringle, A	Slightly wnded	,,	June 16
,,	Robinson, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Reynolds, J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Howie, J	Killed	Bothas Berg	July 10
,,	Forbes, W B	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Booth, F H	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Private	Lauchlan, R	,,	De Langes Drift	July 17
,,	Rigby, R	Mortally wnded	Venterpan	July 26
,,	Herd, A	Accd wounded	Vaal River	Sept 18
,,	Robinson, J	Severely wnded	Sturmans Ranges	Nov 30
,,	Dance, A	Slightly wnded	Near Rustplaats	,,
,,	Devir, P	,,	Nr Wakkerstroom	Dec 12
,,	Granville, W	Died of disease	Sturmans Ranges	Dec 27
,,	Telford, J	,,	Charlestown	Dec 30
				1902
,,	Fenton, V F	Died	Sturmans Ranges	Jan 9
L-Sergt	Stodhart, J	Died of disease	Wakkerstroom	Feb 18
Private	Davies, E	,,	Charlestown	Apl 3
,,	Ferris, W J	,,	,,	Apl 13
,,	Smith, J W	,,	Piquetberg	Jan 24

THE EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.

2nd Battalion.

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date.
				1900
Captain	Kent, F S	Died of disease	Pretoria	July 22
Private	Callaghan, J	,,	Cape Town	Apl 3
,,	Turner, W	,,	At Sea	Mar 26
,,	McDonald, J	,,	,,	Mar 27
,,	Hemming, W	,,	,,	Mar 30
,,	Gofton, J	,,	Cape Town	Apl 8
,,	Knott, G	Slightly wnded	Wakkerstroom	Apl 25
,,	Hopkinson, A	Severely wnded	Thaba N'chu	May 1
,,	Hebb, E	Died of disease	Senekal	June 22
,,	Smith, J	,,	,,	July 5
,,	Birk, T	Died of wounds	,,	June 23
,,	Mathews, F	Died of disease	,,	July 18
,,	Snee, W	Slightly wnded	Dewetsdorp	Apl 25
,,	Bunting, S	Wounded	Wakkerstroom	Apl 22
,,	Byesley, C	Died of disease	Sterkstroom	May 11
,,	Morris, T	,,	Naauwpoort	May 18
,,	Newmarsh, A	Wounded	Thaba N'chu	May 1
,,	Nolan, J	Killed	Winburg	May 21

Rank	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place*	*Date* 1900.
Sergt	Burton, J	Wounded	Winburg	May 21
Private	Leet, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Greenhall, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Holmes, W	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	June 5
,,	Crashley, S	Found drowned	Port Elizabeth	May 26
,,	Revill, J	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	June 16
,,	Bellamy, S	Wounded	Diamond Hill	June 11
,,	Finnigan, B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wilson, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Duff, W	Died of disease	Deelfontein	June 24
L-Corp	Bowring, H	,,	Winburg	July 2
Private	Fredericks, J	,,	Springfontein	July 10
,,	Cullum, W	,,	Kroonstad	July 11
Lieut	Campion, W E	Wounded	Nr Bethlehem	July 26
Sergt	Riley, J	Died of disease	Kroonstad	May 27
Private	Gibson, A	Missing	Zilikatsnek	Aug 1
,,	Haywood, A	Severely wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Sept 23
,,	Tobin, J	Died of disease	Winburg	Oct 25
,,	Tanner, W	,,	Bloemfontein	Oct 30
C-Sergt	Selth, A	,,	Harrismith	Nov 12
Private	Wilson, R	,,	,,	Nov 15
,,	Wray. T	,,	,,	Nov 23
,,	Clarke, E	,,	Bloemfontein	Nov 30
,,	Sullivan, J	,,	Harrismith	Dec 6
,,	Booth, G	,,	Cape Town	Dec 7
L-Sergt	Prinn, H	,,	Harrismith	Dec 17
Private	Henderson, A	,,	,,	Dec 18
,,	Coats, W	Missing	Naauwpoort	Dec 21
,,	Thomas, D	Wounded	Hekpoort	Dec 19
,,	Healey, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Williamson, J	Died of disease	De Aar	Dec 3
,,	Christian, H	,,	,,	,,
Sergt-Maj	Haigh, W S	Wounded	Lindley	Oct 23
Private	Burns, W	Missing		Sept 29
,,	Evans, F	Killed	Bothaville	Nov 6
,,	Benson, S	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Holland, H	,,	,,	,,
				1901
Private	Peach, G	Severely wnded	Reitz	Jan 9
,,	Harper, G B	Died of disease	,,	Jan 12
,,	Tingey, W	,,	,,	Jan 11
,,	Wigley, W	,,	Howick	Jan 14
,,	Canvass, C	,,	Reitz	Jan 13
,,	Gibson, G	Missing	Cockesoord	Jan 15
,,	Feeney, J E	Died of disease	Reitz	Jan 18
,,	Jackson, W G	,,	Pretoria	Jan 29
,,	Hodson, J	,,	Vlakplaats	Jan 21
,,	Gott, W	,,	Mooi River	Feb 2
,,	Ogden, A	,,	Harrismith	Feb 3
Captain	Luard, H A	,,	Winburg	Feb 5
Private	Weedon, W	,,	Harrismith	Feb 1
,,	Everett, W	Severely wnded	Chrissie Meer	Feb 4

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Riley, W	Died of disease	P'Maritzburg	Mar 1
,,	Page	Killed	Jagersfontein	Mar 8
,,	Storr, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jackson, J	,,	,,	,,
C-Sergt	Pilgrim, C A	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Duffield, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hudson, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Arkle, J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Harris, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Adams, C	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Hemming, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Spriggs, A	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Roberts, A	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Feb 26
Private	Allison, F	,,	,,	Mar 7
,,	Macefield, P	,,	Harrismith	Mar 23
,,	Turner, W	,,	Newcastle	Mar 25
,,	Oscroft, S	,,	,,	Apl 1
Lieut	Key, J R	Mortally wnded	Nr Thaba N'chu	Apl 3
Private	Martin, C	Accd sev wnded	,,	,,
,,	Smith, J	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Mar 31
L-Corp	Hunter, A	,,	Harrismith	Apl 9
Private	Darbyshire, G	Severely wnded	Winburg	Apl 14
,,	Higginson, C	Died of disease	Ladysmith	Apl 22
,,	Warby, W	Prisoner	Thaba N'chu	Apl 14
,,	McManns, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stevenson	Slightly wnded	Nr Bethlehem	Apl 28
,,	Collins, H	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	May 6
,,	Poole, C	Dangsly wnded	Graskop	May 5
L-Corp	Bates, W	,,	Tweefontein	May 7
Private	Geary, J	Died of disease	Newcastle	May 9
,,	Mitchell, T	,,	Kroonstad	May 12
,,	Adamson, W	,,	Bloemfontein	May 14
,,	Fenney, J	Severely wnded	Retiefs Nek	May 28
,,	Doyle, F	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Captain	Soote, E S	,,	Nr Bethlehem	May 29
Lieut	Stenhouse, HW	Severely wnded	,,	May 30
Private	Matthews, J	,,	,,	May 29
Sergt	Brillard	,,	,,	May 30
Private	Pay, J	Died of disease	Bethlehem	June 2
,,	McManns, W	Severely wnded	Nr Kimberley	June 7
,,	Oliver, M	,,	Loskop	June 17
,,	Keen, J	Died of disease	Harrismith	June 23
Captain	Brass, E H	Accd drowned	Wilge River	Nov 10
Private	Reynolds, S J	Slightly wnded	Bethlehem	Sept 13
,,	Sudderly, S	Died of disease	Harrismith	Oct 16
,,	Martin, J	,,	Bethlehem	Dec 20
,,	Peach, G	,,	Harrismith	,,
,,	Murray, S	Dangsly wnded	Tweefontein	Dec 25
Corp	Dean, W	Severely wnded	Drinkwater	Dec 1
Sergt	Martin, H	,,	Holland	Dec 19
Private	Statham, A	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Saunders, S	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Tyler, G	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Adams, F	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date. 1902.
Private	Gill, L	Died of disease	Standerton	Jan 6
L-Corp	Cooke, E	,,	Bethlehem	Jan 15
Private	Making, G	,,	Thaba N'chu	Jan 29
Corp	Holmes, M H	,,	Tigers Kloof	Feb 10
Private	Schofield, E	,,	Mooi River	Feb 18
2nd Lieut	Wilde, B	,,	Harrismith	Feb 26
Sergt	Sims, A	,,	,,	Feb 27
Private	Fergusson, F E	,,	,,	Feb 28
,,	Hopkinson, T	,,	,,	Mar 8

THE PRINCE OF WALES' LEINSTER REGIMENT (ROYAL CANADIANS).

1st Battalion.

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date. 1900.
Private	Lee, P	Slightly wnded	Ficksburg	June 12
L-Sergt	Fitzroy, I	Died of disease	Senekal	July 6
Private	Troy, F	,,	,,	July 7
,,	Murphy, R	Mortally wnded	Slaapkrants	July 28
Drummer	Bowler, E	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Derwin, R	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Cooke, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Quirke, E	,,	,,	,,
Lieut	Martin, E C	Died	At Sea	May 1
Private	Kenny, P	,,	,,	May 6
Corp	McDonald, J	,,	Bloemfontein	June 15
Private	Connell, C	Severely wnded	Willow Grange	July 23
,,	Folley, J	Died of disease	Johannesburg	June 30
,,	Smith, B	Wounded	Winburg	Aug 22
,,	Cook, J	,,	Standerton	Nov 12
,,	Dooley, J	,,	Vrede	Dec 18
Sergt	Oregon, T	,,	,,	Dec 29
Private	Collins, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stone, J	Missing	Bethlehem	Sept 16
,,	Mooney, M	,,	,,	Sept 17
,,	Burke, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Baker, M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Barry, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Graham, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jackson, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hingerton, W	,,	Standerton	Oct 9
,,	McGill, J	,,	Vrede	Oct 4
,,	Freeman, G	Died of disease	Ficksburg	Aug 10
Sergt-Dr	Norman, J	,,	Queenstown	Aug 16
Private	White, R	,,	Bethlehem	Sept 12
,,	Parnell, T	,,	Senekal	Sept 3
,,	Murphy, J	,,	Pretoria	Oct 13

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900.
Private	Coughlin, B	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Sept 28
,,	Devery, C	,,	,,	Oct 25
,,	Connor, M	,,	Springfontein	Oct 30
,,	Kelvin, W	,,	Bloemfontein	Oct 31
,,	Slavin, A	,,	Aliwal North	Nov 4
,,	Kelly, J	,,	Vrede	,,
,,	Manning, J	,,	,,	Nov 8
L-Corp	McTiernan, J	,,	,,	Nov 17
Private	Bergen, W	,,	,,	Nov 29
,,	Farrell	,,	,,	Dec 5
,,	Fitzgerald	,,	,,	Dec 7
,,	Gallagher, P	,,	,,	Dec 10
,,	Levins, D	,,	,,	Dec 11
2nd Lieut	Finlay, F H	,,	,,	,,
Private	Lowne, J	,,	,,	Dec 18
Sergt	Peck, J	,,	Queenstown	Dec 21
Private	Dooling, D	,,	Vrede	Dec 23
,,	Lynch, W	,,	,,	Dec 28
				1901
Private	Webb, G	,,	Vrede	Jan 1
Major	Foulerton, A F G	,,	,,	Jan 5
Private	McGibney, N	,,	,,	Jan 14
,,	Cheevers, G	,,	,,	Jan 18
,,	Kavanagh, T	,,	,,	Jan 20
L-Sergt	Farrell, P	,,	,,	Jan 23
Private	Noland, W	,,	,,	Jan 31
,,	Monaghan, J	,,	,,	Feb 8
,,	Aberton, T	,,	,,	Feb 9
,,	Brady, P	,,	,,	Feb 10
,,	Slammon, M	,,	,,	Feb 12
Drummer	Hickey, T	,,	Bloemfontein	Jan 12
Private	Kelly, P	,,	Standerton	Feb 20
,,	O'Grady, M	Killed	Springs	Feb 12
,,	McSweeney, J	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Kerrigan, R	Died of disease	Vrede	Feb 27
Lieut	Scobell, J F	,,	,,	Mar 5
,,	Leicester, H C	,,	Guisplatz	Mar 13
Drummer	McNamara, J	,,	,,	Mar 14
Private	Keating, H	,,	Standerton	Mar 13
,,	O'Donovan, T	,,	De Langes Drift	Mar 21
,,	Connolly, J	,,	Standerton	Mar 28
,,	Ringwood, J	,,	Harrismith	,,
Sergt	McDonald, J	,,	,,	Mar 26
L-Corp	Hagarty, G	,,	Cradock	May 22
Private	Murphy, T	,,	Harrismith	May 26
,,	Smith, P	Slightly wnded	Springs	Feb 12
C-Sergt	Hopkins	,,	Vrede	Mar 12
Sergt	Phillips, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Moynihan	,,	,,	,,
C-Sergt	Grehan, J	Died of disease	Howick	June 20
Private	O'Brien, M	Severely wnded	Nr Elands Drift	June 29
,,	Taffe, P	Prisoner	Near Winburg	June 17
,,	Cleary, P	Slightly wnded	Nr Fouriesburg	May 31

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date.
				1901.
L-Corp	Smith, G	Died of disease	Elandsfontein	Dec 20
Private	Kavanagh, I	Killed	Nr Standerton	Dec 22
,,	Darmody, M	Wounded	,,	,,
				1902
Private	McCabe, P	Died of wounds	Nr Standerton	Jan 2
Drummer	Bowler, E	Died	At Sea, SS "Tagus"	Jan 11
Private	McCabe, J	Died of disease	Brindisi	Jan 18
,,	Grace, J	,,	Bethlehem	Mar 4
,,	Smyth, W	,,	Kimberley	,,
,,	Gannon, T	Killed	Stenekamp	Apl 8
,,	Meara, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Blakeney, W	,,	,,	,,
C-Sergt	O'Brien, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Perrott, T	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Private	Piper, W	,,	,,	,,
L-Sergt	Plunkett, T	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Corp	Dennigan, T	,,	,,	,,
Private	Jennings, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Slattery, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ledwidge, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Keating, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cunningham, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Johnson, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walsh, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dobbins, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stafford, L	,,	,,	,,
,,	McKiernan, P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Meehan, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	McGrath, M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Burke, P	Accd wnded	Brindisi, ORC	Mar 29
,,	Tynan, P	Killed	Haarlem ORC	May 24
Lieut	McCausland, P	Injured	Near Brindisi	Mar 29
C-Sergt	Gee, W	Died of disease	Standerton	Jan 10
Private	Daniels, M	,,	Heidelberg, Tvl	Jan 25
,,	Warren, P	,,	Standerton	Feb 2
Drummer	Sheehan, P	Slightly wnded	Bethlehem	Mar 10
L-Corp	Tully, L	Prisoner	Rooival	Mar 24

THE WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT.

1st Battalion.

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date.
				1900
Private	Mills, G	Prisoner	Sannas Post	Mar 31
,,	Griffiths	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, T	,,	Wakkerstroom	Apl 20
,,	Taylor, J	Pris and wnded	,,	,,
,,	Tillson, W	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Molloy, W	,,	,,	,,

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Morrall, J	Prisoner	Wakkerstroom	Apl 20
,,	Nickless, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Page, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tayton, A G	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Price, E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Allen, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Baker, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Crump, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Genders, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Pace, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	White, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Griffiths, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Harris, A	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Hateles, H	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Holder, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hooper, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jenkins, F	Pris and wnded	,,	,,
,,	Kettle, A	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Killoran, M	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Walters, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Price, H	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Brooks, J	Wounded	,,	,,
Corp	Graham, J T	Killed	,,	Apl 23
Private	Miles, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Wheeler, J	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Webb, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Parkes, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Marsh	Missing	Thaba N'chu	May 5
,,	Groom, E	Slightly wnded	,,	May 7
,,	Underwood, L	Severely wnded	Nr Kroonstad	May 10
,,	Leashorn, J	Wnded & missing	Wakkerstroom	Apl 21
,,	Randle, C	Died of disease	Ladybrand	June 6
,,	Thompson, W	,,	,,	June 14
L-Corp	Potter, A	,,	,,	June 10
Private	Ferreday, F	,,	Bloemfontein	June 6
,,	Rutter, J	,,	Thaba N'chu	June 10
,,	Simpson, J	,,	At Sea	(Not known)
,,	Rudge, P	,,	Ladybrand	June 8
,,	Grazier, H	,,	Thaba N'chu	June 12
L-Corp	Jones, F	,,	,,	July 29
,,	Cattle, E	,,	,,	July 15
,,	Arnold, J	,,	Bloemfontein	June 13
,,	Coleman, P	,,	Cape Town	Apl 20
,,	Hardiman, J	,,	,,	May 17
,,	Vick, E	,,	,,	May 13
Private	Shaddick, T	,,	Bloemfontein	May 31
,,	Goodee	,,	Pretoria	June 30
,,	Knott, J	,,	Senekal	July 24
,,	Dongmore, F	Missing	Jacobsrust	Apl 30
,,	Heath, T	Died of disease	Kroonstad	July 12
,,	Baggott	,,	At Sea	Mar 31
,,	Taylor	,,	,,	Mar 27
,,	Hill, W	Killed	Bethlehem	Oct 26
Lieut	Dorman, L C	Wounded	Ladybrand	Sept 5

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Mills, G	Wounded	Springs	Sept 30
Corp	Moore, C	,,	Bethlehem	Oct 26
L-Corp	Soley, F	,,	,,	,,
Private	Yardley, F	,,	,,	Nov 22
Sergt	Lucas, J	,,	,,	Dec 9
Corp	Short, A	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Sutton, E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Cox, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Stringer, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Summers, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Small, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Brown, J	,,	,,	Dec 16
,,	Grainger, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cross	,,	Reitz	Oct 1
L-Corp	Nash, J C	,,	,,	Oct 8
Private	Jackson, P	,,	Hartebeestefntn	Sept 5
,,	Jeffs, G	Prisoner	Bethlehem	Dec 16
,,	Piggins, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Newton, C	Died of disease	Ladybrand	Aug 31
,,	Bridge, G	,,	Bloemfontein	Nov 27
,,	Smith, W	,,	Winburg	Dec 6
,,	Sharp, W	,,	Bethlehem	Dec 25
,,	Thomas, J	,,	,,	Dec 28
				1901
Private	Haley, M	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Jan 5
Sergt	Wildig, C J	,,	,,	Jan 9
Private	Jones, J	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Linfield, A	,,	Ficksburg	Feb 22
,,	Gittings, A	,,	,,	Feb 11
Private	Hunt, T	,,	Harrismith	Feb 20
L-Corp	Steed, W	,,	Ficksburg	Mar 6
Private	Bowring, T	,,	Bloemfontein	Feb 16
,,	Forrester, T	,,	Newcastle	Mar 13
,,	Matthews, H	,,	Harrismith	Feb 27
,,	Berry, E	,,	Ladybrand	Mar 24
,,	Wheeler, G	,,	Thaba N'chu	Apl 3
,,	Tombs, W	,,	Ficksburg	May 14
,,	Clarke, L	,,	Elandsfontein	Apl 27
L-Corp	Longmore, W	,,	Bloemfontein	May 27
Private	Ward, G	,,	Ladybrand	May 17
,,	Riley, J	Severely wnded	Ficksburg	,,
,,	Hannon, S	Died of disease	Bethlehem	May 24
,,	Jackson, W	Severely wnded	Ficksburg	May 17
,,	Harris, J	Slightly wnded	Ladybrand	Jan 19
,,	Clarke, W	,,	Middelfontein	Jan 24
,,	Berry, E	Prisoner	Near Winburg	Feb 3
L-Sergt	Baker, F A	Severely wnded	Bethlehem	Jan 23
Private	Woodcock, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	White, A	,,	,,	,,
Corp	Hawthorne, H	,,	Nr Goedgedacht	Mar 18
Lieut	Hamilton, A E C	,,	Near Springs	Apl 9
Private	Langford, J	Killed by lightng	Ficksburg	Nov 9
,,	Jones, J	Died of disease	,,	Nov 23

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1901.
Private	Scarrett, G	Died of disease	Ficksburg	Dec 10
,,	Grazier, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Chance, E	Killed by lightng	,,	Dec 25
,,	Pritchard, E	Died of disease	,,	Dec 31
Lieut	Dillon, C T F	Dangsly wnded	,,	Aug 10
Private	Willets, W	Missing	Nr Elandsberg	Nov 8
				1902
,,	Malpass, S	Died of disease	Ficksberg	Jan 18
,,	Tilson, W	,,	Howick	Feb 4
,,	Ryan, C	Died	Cape Town	May 15
,,	Payne, G	Severely wnded	Moolman's Sprt	Apl 20
,,	Freeth, J	Acod wnded	Ficksburg	Jan 2

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

1st Battalion.

Rank	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900
L-Sergt	Williamson, A	Missing	Dewetsdorp	Apl 25
Private	Baker, B	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ashmore, A	Severely wnded	Thaba N'chu	Apl 29
Bugler	Foster, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Griffin, J	Died of disease	Winburg	May 31
,,	Wobley, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mayo, J	,,	,,	June 1
,,	Gee, P	Slightly wnded	Hammonia	June 10
,,	King, G	,,	,,	,,
Captain	Grogan, E B	Killed	Ficksburg	June 25
Lieut	Brancker, GLD	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	McCarthy, C	Wounded	,,	,,
Private	Sidwell, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Herdman, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Riddler, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Truss, J	Died of disease	Senekal	,,
,,	Hyett, G	,,	Ficksburg	July 2
L-Sergt	Chandler, J	,,	Winburg	June 1
,,	Smith, H	,,	,,	June 6
,,	Hipkiss, E	,,	Bloemfontein	June 23
Bandsman	Copsey, H	,,	Ficksburg	July 9
Private	Davis, A	,,	,,	July 13
,,	Gaudern, G	,,	,,	July 15
,,	Mobley, J	,,	Winburg	June 23
,,	Edwards, W	,,	Ficksburg	July 18
,,	Davis, J	Missing	Bloemfontein	May 25
,,	Green, S	,,	,,	,,
,,	Cox, W	Killed	Ficksburg	July 23
,,	Wynn, W	Died of disease	,,	July 20
,,	Reynolds, E	,,	,,	July 8
L-Sergt	Jones, R	,,	Winburg	June 12

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Lieut	Stacpoole, G W R	Slightly wnded	Reddersburg	Apl 4
Corp	Taylor, S F	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	May 22
Private	Evans, M	,,	,,	June 21
Driver	Easley, A	Missing	,,	Apl 26
Private	Donovan, W	Died of disease	Thaba N'chu	June 9
,,	Hughes	,,	Not reported	May 26
,,	Barnett, T H	Missing	Reitz	Aug 13
,,	Mannion, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Fitzgerald, J	,,	Bethlehem	Sept 18
,,	Harvey, H	,,	,,	Sept 19
,,	Whittell, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Frankland, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Baker	,,	Reitz	Dec 15
,,	Goulder	,,	,,	,,
,,	Parsons, G	Died of disease	Harrismith	Aug 22
,,	Copsey, F	,,	Ladybrand	Aug 26
,,	May, R	,,	Naauwpoort	Aug 31
,,	Grosvenor, W	,,	Howick	Aug 27
,,	North, W	,,	Harrismith	Nov 1
Corp	Walker, H	,,	De Aar	Nov 29
Private	Whitton, E	,,	,,	Dec 5
,,	Davis, T	,,	Reitz	Dec 3
,,	Clarke, J	,,	Bloemfontein	Dec 19
,,	Dytch, E	,,	Reitz	Dec 18
,,	Dollman, J	,,	,,	Dec 17
,,	Hewitt, B	,,	Winburg	Dec 23
,,	Ashford, H	,,	Mooi River	Dec 30
,,	Elms, C	,,	Pretoria	Dec 31
,,	Barker, W	,,	Norvals Pont	Oct 25
				1901
Captain	Blackwood, A T	Slightly wnded	Nr Ficksburg	Apl 24
Lieut	Barker, W A J	,,	,,	Apl 3
Private	Pugh, T	,,	Nr Bultfontein	Jan 13
,,	Eaglefield, S	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Coley, R	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Millard, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, A	,,	Commando Nek	Feb 18
,,	Astbury, T	Severely wnded	General's Nek	,,
,,	Millward, J	,,	Fouriesburg	Feb 19
,,	Dunlavey, J	Slightly wnded	Nr Ficksburg	Apl 24
,,	Murphy, M	,,	,,	,,
,,	Turner, J	Severely wnded	Fouriesburg	May 16
,,	Hitchman, E	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Osborn, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Burke, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Starkey, F	,,	,,	June 31
,,	Harper, W	Accd wnded	Slaapkrantz	May 31
Sergt	Booth, H	Severely wnded	Golden Gate	June 5
Private	Newton, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hill, J	Slightly wnded	,,	June 4
,,	Roberts, T	Dangsly wdded	Oldenburg Farm	June 7
,,	McDonald, A	Killed	Nr Ficksburg	Apl 24

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Spence, W	Died of wounds	Nr Ficksburg	Apl 24
,,	Noakes, J	Killed	Golden Gate	June 5
,,	Worrall, W	Died of wounds	Vereeniging	June 15
,,	Heath, J A	Died of disease	Reitz	Jan 8
,,	Wedge, A	,,	Bethlehem	Jan 7
,,	Westward, J W	,,	Ficksburg	Feb 26
L-Corp	Dale, G	,,	,,	Mar 12
Sergt-Dr	Hanham, E G	,,	Winburg	Jan 27
L-Corp	Fellows, G	,,	,,	Jan 25
Corp	Mann, A	,,	Norvals Pont	Feb 28
,,	Nicholson, A	,,	Mooi River	Feb 3
Sergt	Barker, J	,,	Ficksburg	Mar 22
Private	Gallagher, J	,,	,,	Mar 26
,,	French, A E	Accd drowned	,,	Mar 18
,,	Higgins, J	Died of disease	,,	Apl 1
,,	Barker, W	,,	Bethlehem	Feb 8
,,	Shears, W	,,	Ficksburg	Apl 6
,,	Giles, F	,,	,,	Apl 9
,,	Ross, C	,,	Mooi River	Mar 21
L-Corp	Tildsley, H	,,	Bethlehem	Feb 21
Private	Daft, A	,,	,,	Feb 20
,,	Smith, S	,,	Ficksburg	Apl 11
Boy	Kemp, A	,,	Harrismith	Jan 28
Private	Reid, W	,,	Bloemfontein	Feb 6
,,	Baker, G	,,	,,	Apl 4
,,	Bull, G	,,	Winburg	Apl 7
,,	Rathbone, J	Severely wnded	Springs	Apl 9
,,	Curtis, W	Died of disease	Ficksburg	May 1
Drummer	Foster, J	,,	,,	May 4
Private	Male, J	Accd injured	Leribe	June 18
L-Corp	Hogg, H	Accd sev wnded	Nr Elands Riv	June 14
Private	Shoemark, G	Missing	,,	June 15
,,	Cotter, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hamilton, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hunter, J	Died of disease	Ficksburg	June 23
,,	Cutter, J	,,	Bethlehem	June 20
,,	Smith, J	Slightly wnded	Tigerspruit	June 24
,,	German, N	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Lawley, J	Died of disease	Warringham's	Apl 17
,,	Icke, G	Severely wnded	Elands River	Apl 24
,,	Wright, J	Died of disease	Winburg	Jan 17
Corp	Wilkins, J	,,	,,	Jan 25
Private	Pyne, B	,,	,,	Jan 27
,,	Hanson, W	,,	,,	Feb 1
,,	Starkey, A C	,,	,,	Feb 4
,,	Rothan, J	,,	,,	Feb 6
,,	Langman, W	,,	,,	Feb 9
,,	Thorley, G	,,	,,	Feb 17
,,	Hodgkinson, G	,,	,,	Feb 18
,,	Jones, J	,,	,,	Feb 27
,,	Elcock, T	,,	,,	,,
Act-Sergt	Bryan, J	,,	,,	Mar 1
Private	Hitchcott, J	,,	,,	Mar 4
,,	Poston, J	,,	,,	Mar 11

Rank	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Faulkner, F	Died of disease	Winburg	Apl 2
,,	Moore, A	Prisoner	Doornberg	Mar 3
,,	Thomas, J	,,	,,	,,
Corp	May, J E	,,	Winburg	Apl 6
Private	Lane, S	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Williams, W	Killed	Springs	Apl 9
Private	Donnelly, J	Died of wounds	,,	,,
,,	Egan, J	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Foster, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Walker, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Watson, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Parkes, T	,,	Vereeniging	June 14
,,	Worrall, W	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Bradbury, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Deveraux, A	Severely wnded	Crocodile River (Eland's Drift)	June 29
L-Corp	Allen, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Steptoe, R	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Genge, F	Slightly wnded	Vereeniging	June 14
Drummer	Rosamond	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Private	Bayliss, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kirkham, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Powell, H	Died of disease	Pretoria	Feb 6
,,	Sharpe, J	,,	Harrismith	Feb 3
,,	Neil, J	,,	Elandsfontein	Mar 29
Major	Williams, G A	Killed	Tweefontein	Dec 25
L-Corp	Joyce, J	,,	Wilge River	July 25
,,	Denning, A	,,	Tweefontein	Dec 25
Private	Durkin, J	Died of disease	Standerton	July 31
,,	Constable, T	,,	,,	Aug 20
,,	Johnson, E F	,,	P M Burg	Oct 3
,,	Harvey, T	Died	Harrismith	Oct 21
,,	Dunkley, J	Slightly wnded	Nr Zondags Kr	Oct 7
,,	Edwards, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hodgkiss, W	Severely wnded	Tweefontein	Dec 25
,,	Stone, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Gower, A	Prisoner	,,	,,
,,	Moseley, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rodgers, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Taylor, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Atkins, K	,,	,,	,,
,,	Turnstall, R	Dangsly wnded (Since dead)	Near Dundas	July 13
,,	Harding, W	Severely wnded	,,	,,
L-Corp	Careless, J	Died of disease	Harrismith	Dec 31
				1902
Private	Cappell, W	Died of disease	Harrismith	Feb 15
Corp	Galloway, F	,,	,,	Mar 2
Private	Cooper, G	,,	Pretoria	Mar 14
,,	Ankrett, H	Severely wnded	Tweefontein	,,
,,	Wright, A	Died of disease	Howick	Mar 28
,,	Tunstall, E	Accd wounded	Elands Bridge	Apl 12
Captain	Blackwood, A T	Mortally wnded	Moolmans Spt	Apl 20

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date 1902.
Private	Blakemore, G	Severely wnded	Moolmans Spt	Apl 20
Col-Sergt	Hazelwood, J	,,	,,	,,
Private	Partridge, T	Mortally wnded	,,	,,
,,	Seaton, G W	Died of disease	Standerton	Apl 21
Sergt	Hayes, G	Mortally wnded	Ficksburg	Apl 20
Private	Berrill, J	Killed	Hollanding	Apl 23
,,	Smith, C	Died of disease	Harrismith	May 6
,,	Slater, W	Severely wnded	Glen Lennie, Nr Harrismith	May 28
,,	Rochelle, E	Missing	Moolmans Spt	Apl 20
,,	Moore, N	,,	,,	,,
,,	Mackin, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Porter, J	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Foster, W	,,	,,	,,
Private	Mannion, D	,,	,,	,,
,,	Middlebrook, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Schafer, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davies, T	Acod injured	Elands Bridge	Apl 4
,,	Evans, W	,,	Hollinda	Apl 23
,,	Sower, F	slightly wnded	Nr Standerton	Apl 11

THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT.

2nd Battalion.

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date. 1900
Sergt	Ashton, H	Wounded	Sannas Post	Mar 31
,,	Maloney, J	Prisoner	,,	,,
Private	Swallow, F	,,	,,	,,
,,	Blake, J H	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	June 12
,,	Bennett, W	,,	,,	June 16
,,	Bannisser, A	,,	,,	June 23
,,	Lomas, G T	,,	Cape Town	July 4
,,	Nuld, W	,,	Wynberg	July 5
,,	Whitworth, R	,,	Winburg	July 4
,,	Johnson, J	,,	Brestlers Flats	May 11
,,	Harris, W	Missing	Paardenvlei	May 12
,,	Hurst, J	Slightly wnded	Senekal	May 29
,,	Doyle, R	Died of disease	,,	June 16
Corp	Clarke, H	Slightly wnded	Ficksburg	June 15
Private	Shore, P	Died of disease	Winburg	July 15
,,	Foster, J	Missing		May 17
,,	Smith, J	,,		July 30
,,	Withers, G	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	May 27
,,	Pope, J H	,,	,,	June 6
Sergt	Malcaster	Acc sev injured	Harrismith	Aug 5
Private	Halliwell, A	Missing	Near Reitz	Aug 8
,,	Clayton, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	White, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jackson, W F	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	Aug 22

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1900.
Private	Batman, J	Missing	Harrismith	Aug 25
,,	White W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Davil, J	Accd injured	DeVillier's Rust	Sept 9
,,	O'Connor, J	Died of disease	Ladybrand	Sept 8
,,	O'Neill, J	Missing	Stinkfontein	Sept 25
,,	Rorrison, J	Severely wnded	Nr Elandshoek	Oct 10
,,	Bryant, H	Wounded	,,	,,
Corp	Woodsock, W	Killed	,,	,,
Private	Hines, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Tonge, S	Wounded	Harrismith	Oct 26
,,	Ward, P O	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Sept 28
,,	Greenwood, W	,,	,,	Sept 30
,,	Kavanagh, P	,,	,,	Sept 1
,,	Brown, J	,,	Harrismith	Nov 1
Lieut	Baker, E M	Accd injured	Near Vrede	Nov 6
Lc-Corp	Sutcliffe, E	Missing	Nr Harrismith	,,
Private	Robinson, W S	,,	,,	,,
2nd Lieut	Woodhouse, H G W	Died of wounds	Near Vrede	Nov 9
,,	Prigg, H	Died of disease	,,	,,
Private	Hall, R	Severely wnded	,,	Nov 6
,,	Fishwick, F	Wounded	Nr Standerton	Sept 12
,,	Turnbull, J	Died of disease	Pretoria	Sept 15
,,	Munden, J	Died of wounds	Standerton	Nov 16
,,	Percival, J	Killed	,,	,,
,,	McNicholls, J	Dangsly wnded	Near Vrede	,,
,,	Johnson, J	Wounded	,,	,,
,,	Carey, W H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Powers, W	Died of disease	Standerton	Nov 27
Sergt	Ashton, H	Killed by lightng	Middelfontein	Dec 5
Private	Foster, H	Missing	Harrismith	Dec 6
,,	Mattock, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, J P	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ridgway, C	Died of disease	,,	Dec 10
,,	Sellars, E	,,	Winburg	Dec 26
,,	Farrell, W	,,	Harrismith	Dec 27
				1901
Corp	Hutchinson, A	Severely wnded	Tweefontein	May 4
Private	Nolan, M	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Shawcross, J	Killed	Rietpan	Jan 6
,,	Collier, E	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Hancock, J	,,	,,	,,
L-Corp	Chapman, H	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Baker, A	Died of disease	Bethlehem	Feb 3
,,	Bennett, J	Accd wounded	,,	Feb 6
,,	Hutchinson, W	Died of disease	,,	Feb 10
Captain	Noble, C J H H	Slightly wnded	,,	Feb 14
L-Corp	Walton, F	Died of disease	,,	Feb 18
Private	Watson, P	,,	,,	Feb 26
,,	Clarke, H	,,	,,	Mar 5
,,	Skinner, J	,,	,,	Mar 7
,,	Bird, G	,,	Howick	Feb 4
,,	Howe, F	,,	,,	Feb 14

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.* 1901.
Private	Edmunds, T	Died of disease	Harrismith	Mar 23
,,	Crossland, G	,,	,,	Feb 12
Corp	Pearce, C	,,	Winburg	Jan 24
Private	Hill, J	,,	Howick	Feb 19
,,	Nunn, J	,,	Winburg	Feb 7
,,	Cain, M	,,	Harrismith	Jan 31
,,	Mulvaney, T	,,	Bloemfontein	Mar 19
,,	Mitchell, H	,,	Winburg	Feb 14
,,	Crome, J	,,	Harrismith	Apl 9
,,	Buckett, W	,,	Winburg	Feb 3
,,	Mackin, T	,,	Pretoria	Jan 27
,,	Heaton, J	,,	Bloemfontein	Feb 27
,,	Shirley, J	,,	Standerton	June 9
,,	Greenwood, F	,,	Harrismith	June 4
,,	McGovern, J	Severely wnded	Seacowpoolnek	Jan 1
,,	Parker, J	Died of disease	Winburg	Jan 2
,,	Jones, T	,,	Pretoria	Jan 7
L-Corp	Sullivan, J	Severely wnded	Rietpan	Jan 6
Private	Mahoney, J	Accd injured	Ficksburg	Feb 16
,,	Powell, W	Missing	Not stated	Feb 7
,,	Slatterry, W	Died of disease	Dundee	Apl 4
,,	Robinson, G	Accd injured	Springfontein	June 8
Corp	Peacock, H	Prisoner	Nr Kroonstad	July 24
Private	Kirwan, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Rawlings, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Kelly, J	,,	,,	,,
Captain	Stewart-Wynne, O	Slightl wnded and Prisoner	Near Vrede	July 27
Corp	Fletcher, J	Prisoner	,,	,,
Private	Coggan, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Doran, J	Severely wnded	Mooimeisjesrust	Sept 30
L-Corp	McCarthy, J	Slightly wnded	Austin's Drift	Oct 15
Private	Smith, J	Prisoner	Harrismith	Oct 22
,,	Gilligan, J	Mortally wnded	Mooimeisjesrust	Sept 30
2nd Lieut	Tylden-Wright, W R	Severely wnded	Tigers Kloof	Nov 6
L-Corp	McCarthy, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dudley, J	Severely wnded and Prisoner	,,	,,
Private	Taylor, G	Killed	,,	,,
,,	Ishmael, R	,,	,,	,,
,,	Batey, R	,,	,,	,,
Sergt	O'Donnell, J	Prisoner	,,	,,
L-Corp	Hepworth, E	,,	,,	,,
Private	Duncalf, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Dawson, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Durham, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Green, E	,,	,,	,,
,,	Taylor, W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Townsend, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Turner, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Collins, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	McCormack, G H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Jackson, S	Severely wnded	,,	Nov 10

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date.
				1901
Captain	Noble, C J H H	Killed	Nr Bethlehem	Nov 12
2nd Lieut	Holberton, P V	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
Private	Murray, A A	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Rushton, G W	,,	,,	,,
,,	Connery, John	Dangsly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Parker, J	Slightly wnded	Mooimeisjesrust	Nov 13
L-Corp	Greaves, H	Died of disease	Harrismith	Nov 18
Sergt	Nicholls, F	Accd killed	Albertina	Dec 9
Private	Armstrong, G	Dangsly wnded	Holland	Dec 19
,,	McIntyre, J	Severely wnded	,,	,,
L-Corp	Rafter, J	Killed	Boomje Alleen	Nov 14
Private	Connolly, P	Missing	,,	,,
,,	Hall, T	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Captain	Brindley, G FW	Mortally wnded	Holland	Dec 19
L-Corp	Ridgeway	Prisoner	Tweefontein	Dec 25
				1902
Corp	Monkhouse, H	Died of disease	Harrismith	Jan 24
Private	Bolton, J	Accd drowned	Oliviers Hoek	,,
Sergt	Hannam, C	Died of disease	Harrismith	Mar 10
Private	Foster, J	,,	,,	May 23
,,	Culpin, J	Prisoner	Lindley	May 6

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

2nd Battalion.

Rank.	Name.	Nature of Casualty.	Place.	Date.
				1900
Private	Austin, W E	Prisoner	Sannas Post	Mar 31
,,	Town, C	,,	,,	,,
,,	Hudson, S	Died of disease	Bloemfontein	Apl 3
Lieut	Hildyard, R J	Prisoner	Sannas Post	Mar 31
Pioneer	Kew, G R	Accd killed	Thabanchu	Apl 26
Private	Carney, M	Acc sltly wnded	,,	May 2
,,	Brooks, W	Severely wnded	,,	Apl 30
,,	Johnson, T	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	White, E	,,	,,	,,
Captain	Buckle, M P	Severely wnded	,,	,,
Sergt	Wood, C W	Died of disease	Dewetsdorp	May 3
L-Corp	Cairns, R	Severely wnded	Biddulphsberg	May 29
Private	Valder, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Latter, H	,,	,,	,,
,,	Ott, A	,,	,,	,,
,,	Andrews, W	Slightly wnded	,,	,
,,	Ardrey, H	Severely wnded	,,	,,
,,	Hoye, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Smith, J	Slightly wnded	,,	,,
,,	Marchant, J	Died of disease	Ficksburg	July 12
,,	Malvern, A	,,	,,	July 13

Rank.	*Name.*	*Nature of Casualty.*	*Place.*	*Date.*
				1900.
Private	White, H	Missing	Harrismith	July 26
,,	Cousins, J	Died of disease	Winburg	June 3
Corp	Page, F	,,	Bloemfontein	June 2
Private	Lyons, E	,,	,,	July 11
,,	Bridge, W B	,,	Deelfontein	July 13
L-Corp	Horsnell, R	,,	Bloemfontein	July 18
Private	Humphries, J	,,	Naauwpoort	July 28
,,	Walters, G	Missing	Bethlehem	Sept 25
,,	Booker, R	,,	Vrede	Aug 26
,,	Barnes, A	Wounded	Elandskop	Sept 27
Sergt	Conty, W	,,	Frankfort	Oct 11
Private	Ashby, J	Drowned	,,	Oct 9
,,	Sellings, F	Killed	,,	Oct 22
,,	Clarke, G	,,	,,	,,
,,	Manday, J	Mortally wnded	,,	Nov 6
,,	Capon, W	Died of disease	,,	Nov 23
Sergt	Montague, W	Wounded	,,	Nov 6
Private	Emmerson, T	,,	,,	Oct 22
Col-Sergt	Grellier, B	,,	,,	,,
Private	Hipkins, T	,,	,,	Nov 6
,,	Chapman, T	,,	,,	,,
,,	Shoebridge, G	Died of disease	,,	Dec 3
,,	Tike, H	,,	,,	Dec 4
,,	Smith, W	,,	,,	Dec 5
,,	Barnes, W	,,	,,	Dec 17
,,	Fricker, A	,,	,,	Dec 20
,,	Allen, J	,,	,,	Dec 23
,,	Olds, J	,,	,,	Dec 28
,,	Galpin, F	,,	Harrismith	Dec 6
,,	Soper, A E	,,	,,	Dec 29
,,	Harris, G	Missing	Bethulie	Oct 19
,,	Roberts, W	,,	Harrismith	Sept 23
,,	Langley, F	Wounded	Frankfort	Oct 6
,,	Davis, J	Died of disease	Ficksburg	Aug 26
Sergt	Eveleigh, E	,,	Norvals Pont	Nov 22
Private	Turpin, H	,,	,,	Dec 10
,,	Wilcox, F	,,	,,	Dec 15
Corp	Marchant, H	,,	,,	Dec 18
Sergt	Couch, E	,,	Kroonstad	Dec 19
				1901
Private	Collins, W	Died of disease	Frankfort	Jan 8
,,	Greenwood, J	,,	,,	,,
,,	Bailey, A	,,	,,	Jan 23
,,	Richardson, J	,,	Harrismith	Jan 16
,,	Ashton, E	,,	Frankfort	Jan 24
Sergt	Bennett, E C	,,	Harrismith	Jan 27
Private	Bish, A	,,	Uitkyk	Feb 9
,,	Jupp, F	Slightly wnded	Nr Frankfort	Jan 30
,,	Rowe, T	Died of disease	Heilbron	Feb 11
,,	Roff, T	,,	Kroonstad	Feb 7
Col-Sergt	Thorn, A	,,	Mooi River	,,
L-Corp	Bird, A	,,	Heilbron	Feb 18
Private	Barwick, C	,,	Winburg	Feb 13